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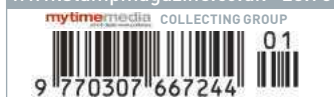
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WELCOME

It was with dismay that I heard of the death of *Stamp Magazine's* stalwart contributor Francis Kiddle, shortly after we went to press with the December issue. I knew it was coming (believe me, he would not have given up his Cinderella Corner column lightly), but still it was a shock.



I'm sad for his family and his friends, and sad for the magazine, because it was a coup to have such an eminent collector penning a regular piece, and a boon to have someone on hand who could write and advise about such a diverse range of subjects.

But most of all I'm sad for the philatelic world, because someone with his enthusiasm, energy and knowledge is irreplaceable.

You could not find anyone more deeply entrenched in philately than Francis. He played leading roles in local societies, specialist societies, regional federations, national societies and international organisations. He was an exhibitor, an expertiser, a commissioner, a trustee, an administrator, a judge, a researcher, an author and a journalist.

Most impressively of all, he was always willing to share his expertise, with the tone of an enthusiast rather than a know-it-all. I could ask him anything, and he would either know the answer immediately or head off to find someone who did, among his vast network of worldwide contacts.

And that sums up the hobby's loss. Francis relayed a great deal of his wisdom over the years, both on paper and to willing listeners like me, but there is so much more knowledge that is now lost forever.

GUY THOMAS, Editor

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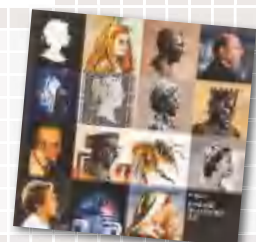
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Win a Royal Mail 2015 Yearbook!
Or a copy of our GB price guide!
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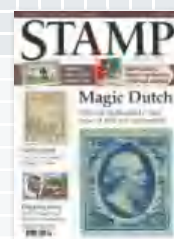


'Would it be so wrong for Royal Mail to be overtly commercial with every stamp issue?'

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Treasure chest reveals 300-year-old letters

More than 2,500 undelivered entires are being studied by academics after being locked away in a trunk for more than 300 years by a postmaster in the Netherlands.

Sent between 1680 and 1706, they were retained by the postmaster in The Hague after they could not be delivered. In many cases they are marked 'Niet hebbben', meaning that the addressee refused to pay to accept them; in other cases the intended recipient had moved away or died.

The leather trunk was presented to the postal museum in The Hague in 1926, but its contents are only now being studied by scholars from universities including Oxford, Leiden and Yale.

The letters were written in a wide range of languages, including Dutch, French, Italian and Latin. Special scanners will be used to examine the contents of sealed entires without actually opening them.



© HAGUE MUSEUM FOR COMMUNICATION



Belgian issue to promote religious harmony

Belgium has attracted international attention for its plan to issue a stamp promoting religious coexistence, featuring a bishop, a rabbi and an imam.

Not scheduled for release until October 2016, its design is based on a photograph of Roman Catholic Bishop Johan Bonny, Rabbi Albert Guigui and Imam Khalid Benhaddou with hands clasped together.

The inscription at the foot of the 1st class stamp translates as 'Everybody equal, everybody different'.

Belgium is a predominantly Catholic nation, but has large Muslim and Jewish communities, with occasional tensions between them. Shortly after the announcement of the issue, radical Belgian Muslims were implicated in November's terrorist attacks in neighbouring France.

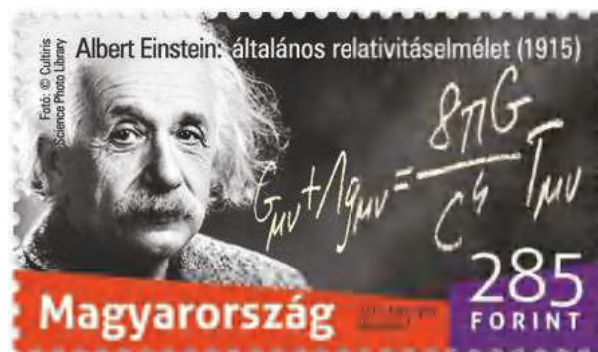
Einstein theory commemorated by Hungary

Hungary led the way in commemorating the 100th anniversary of Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity, with a stamp issued in September.

The 285f stamp has a photograph of Einstein alongside the mathematical equation which underpins the theory, which is essentially a geometric description of gravity.

Einstein presented his ground-breaking paper *The Field Equations of Gravitation* to the Prussian Academy of Sciences on November 25, 1915. It introduced the concept of the curvature of space and predicted the existence of black holes.

Born in Germany, but also a citizen of the Austro-Hungarian Empire from 1911, Einstein had earlier expounded a special theory of relativity, the centenary of which was celebrated by many stamp issues in 2005.



Falklands issue hails a new type of cloud

A set of four stamps from the Falkland Islands illustrates cloud forms, including a new one which was formally recognised by the World Meteorological Organization during 2015.

The 31p design shows *asperitas* (Latin for 'roughness'), which has the appearance of turbulent and contorted waves. It is the first new cloud type to be recognised since 1951, partly due to the efforts of the British-based Cloud Appreciation Society.

The other three designs feature the more common *altocumulus*, *altocumulus lenticularis*, *cumulonimbus* and *stratocumulus*.

The issue honours the British meteorologist Luke Howard (1772-1864), dubbed the 'Namer of Clouds', whose classification of types proposed in 1802 is still in use today.

Falklands clouds are very varied, influenced by the prevailing westerly winds which arise on the South American continent.



Obituary: Francis Kiddle

Francis Kiddle, one of world philately's most distinguished collectors, exhibitors, jurors, experts, administrators and authors, has died at the age of 73.



He was best known as one of the world's leading experts on cinderellas, and was the Chairman of the FIP Revenue Commission until his death in October. But he had an enormous breadth of interest and knowledge, and compiled many exhibits ranging from traditional to revenues and postal history to thematic.

An FIP-accredited international judge since 1980, Kiddle served on more than 30 juries, and was president of the jury at the London 2010 exhibition and London 2015 Europhilex.

President of the Royal Philatelic Society London from 1994-96, he was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1995 and was awarded the Lichtenstein Medal for service to philately in 2012.

He also served as the President or Chairman of many local and specialist societies, including the Fleet Philatelic Society, the Hampshire Philatelic Federation, the Cinderella Stamp Club and the GB Overprints Society.

Having worked in the British space industry for the Defence Evaluation & Research Agency until retiring in 1997, Francis Kiddle exchanged the world of rocket science for journalism, co-writing *Stamp Magazine's* regular Cinderella Corner feature for more than 15 years with his brother Charles.

He is much missed by the magazine, and by the philatelic world.

Philippines reprint hurts collectors

A Philippines stamp commemorating the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Manila in November was retracted and reprinted just days before its issue date, due to a design error.

The original design, which showed the flags of the 21 member economies, was rejected because two of them were not of recognised countries. The revised design simply bears the APEC 2015 globe logo.

A print run of 200,000 stamps had to be destroyed, and collectors will bear the brunt: the stamp's face value was doubled from 15p to 30p to cover the cost!



GB Congress society set up

The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain Study Group has been established for those who collect material relating to the annual event, which was first held in 1909.

Former ABPS Congress Secretary Colin Searle was elected Chairman at the inaugural meeting in October, and meetings will be held around the country. For more details visit www.pcgbstudygroup/home

NEWS IN BRIEF

➤ The 2016 Philatelic Congress of Great Britain will take place at the Belfry Hotel in Cambourne, near Cambridge, from July 21-24. The signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists will take place at St John's College, Cambridge.

➤ Poland has won the St Gabriel Award for best stamp on a religious theme for the third time in five years, for its 2014 miniature sheet celebrating the canonization of Pope John Paul II.

➤ Auction house Postiljonen has published *The Steinberg Covers: Forged Covers from the Classic Period in Swedish Philately* by Helena Obermüller-Wilén, documenting expert forgeries produced by Robert Steinberg in the early 1970s. Visit www.postiljonen.se

➤ A new philatelic society has been set up in Cumbria. Cocker-mouth Stamp Club meets once a month. For more details contact Mike Roberts. Tel: 08788 583 9622.

➤ The British Thematic Association's BTA Cup has been won by *Stamp Magazine* contributor Jeff Dugdale, with an exhibit on mythology, and the John Fosbery Thematic Trophy by Ernie Clayton, with an exhibit on bikes.

➤ Denmark's oldest post office building, which also housed the Post & Tele Museum in Copenhagen, has been sold for redevelopment. The museum is due to be reopened in a new location in 2016.

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8a	1d blue paper 4.50	66a	4d rose 10.00		Plate 7 7.50		Plate 10 7.50
9	1d pale r-brown 4.75	66b	4d Thick paper 25.00		Plate 8 7.50		Plate 11 5.25
10	1d dp r-brown 5.00		4d Wmk inv 27.50		Plate 9 7.50		Plate 12 5.25
12	1d orge-brown 35.00	69	6d deep lilac 12.50		Plate 10 12.50		Plate 12 5.25
13	2d pale blue 14.00	70	6d lilac 9.95	Set	Plates 4-10 65.00		Plate 13 5.25
14	2d blue 10.00	70	6d Wmk inv 30.00	104	6d lilac 10.00		Plate 14 5.25
15	2d deep blue 15.00	71	1s deep green 47.50	105	6d dp lilac 11.50		Plate 15 5.25
17	1d Die I 3.00	72	1s green 35.00	106	6d purple 13.50		Plate 16 5.25
18	1d yell-brown 6.00	73	1s pale green 35.00	107	6d birt violet 12.00		Plate 17 47.50
19	2d deep blue 12.50	73b	1s thick paper 42.50	108	6d dull violet 10.00	Set	Plates 3-17 130.00
20	2d pale blue 17.50	75	3d dp car-rose 55.00	109	6d m'v PI.8 9.50	142	25d Plate 17 8.00
21	1d Die II 8.00	76	3d br car-rose 40.00		Plate 9 9.50		Plate 18 7.00
22	1d Perf 14 8.00	77	3d pale c-rose 40.00	104/9	One of each		Plate 19 5.25
23	2d Perf 14 32.00	79	4d bright red 15.00		Plates 6, 8, 9 27.00		Plate 20 5.25
23a	2d Plate 5 39.00	80	4d pale red 11.50	110	9d straw 32.50	Set	Plates 17-20 23.50
24	1d Die II 7.50	81	4d Hair Lines 12.50	111	9d pale straw 32.50	143-4	3d Plate 11 6.50
24a	1d v blue ppr 15.00	82	4d do. pale red 11.00	112	10d red-brn 45.00		Plate 12 6.50
26	1d Perf 16 17.50	83	6d deep lilac 15.00	113	10d pale 47.50		Plate 14 6.50
27	2d Plate 5 69.00	84	6d lilac 10.00	114	10d deep 55.00		Plate 15 6.50
29	1d Lge Cm P14 2.00	84b	6d Thick paper 19.50	115/7	1s Plate 4 7.50		Plate 16 6.50
30	1d brick-red 7.50	85	6d Hair Lines 17.50		Plate 5 7.00		Plate 17 6.50
32	1d brown-rose 7.50	85c	6d Thick ppr 25.00		Plate 6 7.00		Plate 18 6.50
33	1d orge-brown 7.50	86	9d bistre 45.00		Plate 7 15.00		Plate 19 6.50
34	2d Plate 5 9.50	87	9d straw 42.50	Set	Plates 4-7 35.00		Plate 20 12.50
35	2d Plate 6 9.50	89	1s deep green 32.50	118	2s dull blue 20.00	Set	Plates 11-20 65.00
36	1d White paper 10.00	90	1s green 19.50	119	2s deep blue 20.00	146-7	6d Plate 13 7.50
36a	2d Perf 16 60.00	92	3d Plate 4 16.00	120	2s pale blue 30.00		Plate 14 7.50
38	1d pale red 1.50	92b	3d Thick paper 18.75	122	6d dp chest 10.00		Plate 15 7.50
39	1d pale rose 1.75	93/5	4d Plate 7 10.00	122a	6d chestnut 8.00		Plate 16 7.50
40	1d rose-red 1.00		Plate 8 7.50	122b	6d pale ch 8.00		Plate 17 23.50
40b	1d Res Plates 3.00		Plate 9 7.50	123	6d buff Pl. 11 12.50	148-50	1st Plate 8 17.50
41	1d dp rose-red 1.25		Plate 10 12.50		Pl. 12 35.00		Plate 9 17.50
42	1d Alphabet IV 4.25		Plate 11 7.50	125	6d grey 25.00		Plate 10 19.50
45-7	2d Plate 7 6.50		Plate 12 7.50	126/7	5s Plate 1 65.00		Plate 11 17.50
	Plate 8 4.00		Plate 13 7.50		Plate 2 95.00		Plate 12 10.00
	Plate 9 2.00		Plate 14 11.50	138	25d blue ppr 17.50		Plate 13 10.00
	Plate 12 13.75	Set	Plates 7-14 65.00	139	25d Plate 1 10.00	Set	Plates 8-13 87.50
	Plate 13 2.50	94	4d Wmk inv 7.50		Plate 2 10.00	151	1s Plate 13 90.00
	Plate 14 3.00	96/7	6d Plate 5 9.75		Plate 3 17.50	152	4d Plate 15 52.50
	Plate 15 3.00		Plate 6 17.50	Set	Plates 1-3 35.00	153	4d Plate 15 32.00
Set	Plates 7-15 33.75	98	9d Pile 4 90.00	141	25d Plate 3 17.00	153	4d Plate 16 30.00

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By Andrew McGavin, Managing Director, Universal Philatelic Auctions (UPA)

In all my 40+ years in the trade I have never seen an introductory offer to new clients like this ... so you may be wondering the reason why my company UPA can afford to make this offer to you?

In 'plain talk' – most auctions charge 'Buyer's Premiums' – YES! You have to pay up to **25%** (some charge more) on top of the winning price you paid. That is Simply an Incredible surcharge. Apparently this significant premium is justified by charging the seller a lower fee in order to entice consignments for sale.

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2. Stamp Industry's BIGGEST problem. ... twenty years ago I started to ponder upon what is the biggest problem faced by the average stamp dealer? The answer came back loud and clear. The biggest problem faced by a stamp dealer is not what sells ... but **what does not sell**. This is the reason why most stamp dealers have lots of unsold stock you have seen time and time again – worse still this is what prevents that dealer from buying new stock to offer you.

3. Surface Sell. There is an actual name for this – it is called 'surface sell' – good material 'floats' on the surface and sells. Less desirable stock sinks so that unless a dealer pays almost nothing to replace his stock then the profit in the business becomes stagnant and bound

in less saleable stock. If only that dealer could move this stock he would have more money to invest in new stock to offer to you.

4. Cover-up. Twenty years ago almost the entire stamp industry spent its time disguising what did not sell – in those days so pernicious were 'unsolds' that it was common practice for one auction house to sell batches of 'unsolds' to another auction where the new auction could present them to (hopefully) different collectors as new lots. 'Passing the Philatelic Parcel' was common practice.

5. E-Bay. Today the philatelic world is almost unrecognisably different. In large part courtesy of the internet. How things have changed. Few 'pass the parcel'. Really active Dealers - these days they **also** sell on eBay - large lots, small lots, all manner of stamps, covers, down to fakes and forgeries – today's equivalent of the Wild West – there's philatelic 'gold' to be mined in those hills ... but Boy – you have to work to find it and sadly 'all that glistens is not gold' – you pays your money and you takes your chance often with little support or recourse. UPA too sells surpluses on eBay backed by support and our guarantee – access eBay links via www.upastampauctions.co.uk

AUSTRALIA 1913

Proof of the unissued 1s

**SOLD FOR
£43,697**

The Arthur Gray collection of Australia from the King George V period, sold by Mossgreen, included this 1913 perforated plate proof of an unissued design.

Recess printed by T S Harrison in brown-purple on gummed but unwatermarked paper, it depicts a black swan, a motif well established from the 19th-century stamps issued by Western Australia.

This 1s value was intended to form part of the recess-printed series which began with the 1913 1d portraying the King and continued with the 1914 6d illustrating the laughing kookaburra.

However, the expense and slow speed of recess-printing the required number of low value stamps quickly persuaded the postal authorities to abandon recess in favour of typography. This left the way clear for the Kangaroo & Map series to dominate the country's postal history for a generation.

SOLD BY MOSSGREEN £43,697



HAWAII 1852

Unique used pair of the 13c

Hawaiian Missionary stamps featured heavily in Siegel's sale, with the highest realisation being for this used pair of the 1852 13c blue.

Cancelled with the usual seven-bar grid handstamp, the stamps had been separated after use but have since been rejoined, recreating the only recorded multiple of this particular value.

Hawaii's early issues, printed locally on a newspaper press in Honolulu, were nicknamed because they were used mostly on mail posted by American missionaries to the remote island group on the Pacific, which was then an independent kingdom.

Two similar designs exist, inscribed 'Hawaiian Postage' in 1851 and 'HI & US Postage' in 1852. All values are very rare, and the surviving stamps are in fragile condition.



SOLD BY SIEGEL £30,801

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS 1903

\$100 top value

It was a selection of Straits Settlements high values which attracted most bidders at the latest auction held by Status International, not least a 1903 \$100 purple and green on yellow in unmounted mint condition.

Typographed by De La Rue on paper with a Crown CA watermark, this stamp was by far the top value in the King Edward VII definitive set of 1902-03, with the next highest being just \$5.

It was clearly intended for revenue use, and has no listed catalogue price with a postal cancellation.

SOLD BY STATUS INTERNATIONAL £16,202



CANADA 1903

2d tête-bêche block

The highlight of Eastern Auctions' sale in Canada was an imperforate tête-bêche block of the 1903-12 2c carmine from an uncut sheet of booklet panes.

It came from an imperforate sheet submitted to the Postmaster General for approval, which subsequently found its way onto the philatelic market.

Panes of six were printed in two columns, positioned tête-bêche, with the plate number at the top.

Only one other similar block exists, and this is by far the superior one. It was appearing at auction for the first time since 1979.



SOLD BY EASTERN AUCTIONS £17,306

UNITED STATES 1861-62 Civil War prize court cover

Schuyler Rumsey's sale had a fine range of prize court covers, seized from ships during the Union blockade of the Confederate ports in the US Civil War, including this unusual example.

Sent by an American engineer from Hong Kong on August 16 1861, it was carried privately to (Unionist) New York, before the schooner *Defiance*, trying to run the blockade, was captured in September 1862 while carrying it towards (Confederate) Savannah in Georgia.

Seized passengers and cargo were brought before the so-called prize courts, and surviving mail carries annotations showing that it was used as evidence in a trial.

In this case, the manuscript initials 'HF' are of Henry Flanders, Commissioner of the Philadelphia Prize Court.

SOLD BY SCHUYLER RUMSEY £11,077



ADEN & YEMEN 1904 Unique mixed franking

One of the four special sales organised by Grosvenor to celebrate its 100th philatelic auction centred on the Gary Brown collection of Aden postal history, and a highlight was this 1904 cover, the only one recorded with a mixed franking of Aden and Yemen.

Sent from the Italian Consulate at Hodeida in Yemen, then in the Ottoman Empire, to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Rome, it was franked with one 5p brown and two 20p mauve from the 1901 issue of Turkey.

Since all registered mail from Yemen at this time was obliged to pass through the port of Aden, which was governed as part of British India, it had a block of eight of the India 2a 6p ultramarine added to pay for the 3½oz weight and registration fee.

SOLD BY GROSVENOR £10,000



GREAT BRITAIN 1840 Early multiple on cover

The all-world sale at Phoenix offered a good selection of Penny Blacks, and among the highlights was this superb cover franked with a block of four from plate 2.

Dated June 10, 1840, just five weeks after postage stamps went into use, the cover was sent by the Insurance Company of Scotland in Edinburgh to its agent in Kirriemuir.

Multiples are rare on early covers. These stamps, in the intense black shade with corner letters HE to IF, were neatly cancelled by four red Maltese Cross handstamps.

SOLD BY PHOENIX £10,562



GREAT BRITAIN 1979 Missing colour error

Warwick & Warwick's latest auction offered a range of errors on Great Britain's 1979 Centenary of the Death of Rowland Hill miniature sheet, including one of the rarest of the many missing colour errors.

This is the omission of brown-ochre, which is easy to spot because it leaves the background of the 15p design white and the faces on all four stamps very pallid.

Priced at a premium to raise funding for the London 1980 International Exhibition, the sheet had already been printed when a decision was taken at short notice to increase the postage rates. Its hurried reprinting with amended values contributed to the catalogue of errors found in this issue.

These include 11 different combinations of missing colour or missing phosphor.

SOLD BY WARWICK & WARWICK £2,900



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CHILTERNHAM 175, Type B, Type A Recut, 14th September 1885.

CHILTERNHAM TYPE B	CHILTERNHAM TYPE B Original	CHILTERNHAM TYPE B Recut
CHILTERNHAM TYPE B	CHILTERNHAM TYPE B Original	CHILTERNHAM TYPE B Recut
CHILTERNHAM TYPE B	CHILTERNHAM TYPE B Original	CHILTERNHAM TYPE B Recut
CHILTERNHAM TYPE B	CHILTERNHAM TYPE B Original	CHILTERNHAM TYPE B Recut
CHILTERNHAM TYPE B	CHILTERNHAM TYPE B Original	CHILTERNHAM TYPE B Recut
CHILTERNHAM TYPE B	CHILTERNHAM TYPE B Original	CHILTERNHAM TYPE B Recut
CHILTERNHAM TYPE B	CHILTERNHAM TYPE B Original	CHILTERNHAM TYPE B Recut
CHILTERNHAM TYPE B	CHILTERNHAM TYPE B Original	CHILTERNHAM TYPE B Recut
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AVRO LANCASTER BCSP37 £12.95

On the 9th January 1941 the Lancaster achieved its first flight at the Ringway Airport in Manchester, revealed to the whole of the RAF for the first time. This cover commemorates the 75th anniversary.



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Entering the Antarctic ice • December 1914



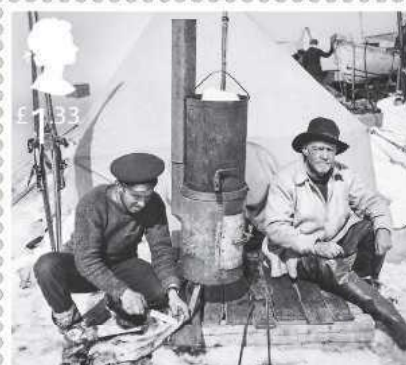
Endurance frozen in pack ice • January 1915



Striving to free Endurance • February 1915



Trapped in a pressure crack • October 1915



Patience Camp • December 1915–April 1916

Royal Mail's first new issue of 2016, out on January 7, commemorates what the mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary described as 'The greatest survival story of all time'.

Entitled Shackleton & The Endurance Expedition, the eight-stamp set recalls the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition led by Sir Ernest Shackleton in 1914–17, which is regarded as the last expedition of the heroic age of polar exploration.

As an attempt to make the first land crossing of Antarctica via the South Pole, it was a dismal failure, abandoned even before it reached the continental landmass.

Instead, it produced one of the greatest rescue stories in history, living up to its billing as the 'Endurance Expedition'

(after the name of one of its two ships) and making Shackleton one of the most celebrated mariners and commanders of all time.

The stamps tell the chronological story through the ground-breaking photography of the Australian adventurer Frank Hurley, who was the expedition's official photographer. Designed by Robert Maude and Sarah Davies, they were printed in litho by International Security Printers, in sheets comprising se-tenant pairs.

Although the issue marks no definite anniversary, it comes 100 years after the darkest days of the expedition, when the crew were marooned on pack ice after the loss of *Endurance*, with no obvious way to return to civilisation.

1st class ENTERING THE ANTARCTIC ICE

December 1914: Shackleton and his crew of 28 men on the three-masted ship *Endurance* reach the Weddell Sea, while the expedition's other ship journeys to the Ross Sea on the other side of Antarctica.

1st class ENDURANCE FROZEN IN PACK ICE

January 1915: the ship is 80 miles from its intended landfall at Vahsel Bay when she becomes trapped in sea ice that is thicker than expected in the Antarctic summer.

£1.00 STRIVING TO FREE ENDURANCE

February 1915: efforts to free the ship from the ice using ice picks, chisels and saws fail, and she begins to drift northwards



through the Antarctic winter. The crew are resigned to being marooned for the whole winter, with no sunlight and in freezing temperatures.

£1.00 TRAPPED IN A PRESSURE CRACK

October 1915: *Endurance* is crushed between ice floes, listing and eventually beginning to break up. As much as possible is salvaged, including three lifeboats, before the ship is abandoned and sinks.

£1.33 PATIENCE CAMP

December 1915–April 1916: after several failed attempts to march towards known food depots or whaling outposts hundreds of miles away, the crew establish 'Patience Camp', augmenting their limited provisions

with seal and dog meat. The photograph shows Shackleton on the right.

£1.33 SAFE ARRIVAL AT ELEPHANT ISLAND

April 1916: as the ice starts to break up, the crew set sail in the lifeboats to make the perilous journey to the nearest dry land, the uninhabited Elephant Island, off the northernmost tip of the Antarctic landmass.

£1.52 SETTING OUT FOR SOUTH GEORGIA

April 1916: with no hope of rescue from the island, Shackleton leads a party of six to go and summon help. One of the lifeboats, *James Caird*, is modified with an improvised mast and sail for an 800-mile crossing of the treacherous Southern Ocean to South Georgia, which takes 16 days.

£1.52 RESCUE OF *ENDURANCE* CREW

August 1916: after a 36-hour trek across the mountains of South Georgia to the whaling station at Stromness, Shackleton organises rescue expeditions for the remainder of his crew. After two failed attempts, the 22 men

are picked up from Elephant Island by the Chilean steam tug *Yelcho*.

OTHER PRODUCTS

Written by author Michael Smith, the presentation pack describes the challenges endured by the expedition party and includes more of Hurley's dramatic photographs. Stamp cards and first day covers are available as usual.

VERDICT

COMMEMORATIVE WORTH ★★★★★

This is a wonderful story, although it's a slightly strange time to be telling it

QUALITY OF DESIGN ★★★★★

The photographs are of surprising quality given the circumstances in which they were taken

WOW FACTOR ★★★★★

The images come alive only when you appreciate the fortitude and endurance behind them

PRICES

Set of 8 stamps	£8.96
Presentation pack	£9.50
Stamp cards	£3.60
First day cover	£11.23

NEWS IN BRIEF

➤ The latest slogan postmarks to be used on stamped mail were 'Congratulations to New Zealand, Rugby World Cup 2015 winners' from October 31 to November 4, and 'Remember to Post Early for Christmas!' starting on November 16.

➤ A motion in Parliament in November, which had cross-party support, called for Royal Mail to offer a temporary 25p rate for Christmas cards in December each year, to safeguard the tradition of sending cards.

➤ Collectors who managed to procure post office promotional material for the Star Wars issue and then tried to sell it on eBay were asked to remove it by Royal Mail's lawyers.

➤ Following complaints that Portsmouth's mail was receiving a Southampton postmark, after the local mail processing centre was closed, Royal Mail introduced new 'Southampton, Portsmouth & Isle of Wight' postmark.

➤ Royal Mail has introduced barcodes to its Click & Drop postage labels, which are printed to order by internet users. All labels now measure 3½in x 5in.

➤ A new book, *Overprinted British Airletters* by John Gledhill, details the overprints made for the Parliamentary Conference in 1957 and for countries in the Middle East. Published by the GB Overprints Society, it is priced £36. Visit www.gbos.org.uk

Three literature sets in 2016 special stamp programme

Literature is the stand-out theme in Royal Mail's 2016 programme of special stamp issues, announced in November.

There will be sets celebrating William Shakespeare, on his 400th death anniversary, Beatrix Potter, on her 150th birth anniversary, and Agatha Christie, on no very obvious anniversary.

Historical landmarks to be commemorated are Royal Mail's own 500th anniversary (based on the establishment of its antecedent, The King's Posts, in 1516), the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London in 1666, and the Queen's 90th birthday in April. Part three of the ongoing First World War series will focus on 1916.

It has already been made clear that Sir Nicholas Winton will be among the British Humanitarians honoured in March, while the Landscape Gardens set in August is obviously timed to coincide with the 300th birth anniversary of Capability Brown, Britain's most famous exponent of the art.

No details have been announced of the Music Giants or Animagil issues, or of the October set, which may be another surprise in the recent Star Wars stamps.

Three scheduled commemorative sheets will mark significant anniversaries of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, the Australian & New Zealand Army Corps and the Battle of Hastings.

2016 PROGRAMME

Jan 7	Shackleton & The Endurance Expedition
Feb 17	Royal Mail's 500th Anniversary
Mar 15	British Humanitarians
Apr 5	William Shakespeare
Apr 21	The Queen's 90th Birthday
May 17	Animail
Jun 21	First World War: 1916
Jul 7	Music Giants
Jul 28	Beatrix Potter
Aug 16	Landscape Gardens
Sep 2	Great Fire of London
Sep 15	Agatha Christie
Oct 20	(to be announced)
Nov 8	Christmas

COMMEMORATIVE SHEETS

Jan 28	Duke of Edinburgh Awards
Apr 25	ANZAC
Oct 14	Battle of Hastings



2015 yearbook released

Royal Mail's 2015 yearbook, a 64-page hardback volume which contains all of the year's commemorative issues along with background information about them, has the theme of 'profiles', apparently inspired by Arnold Machin's iconic bas-relief portrait of the Queen.

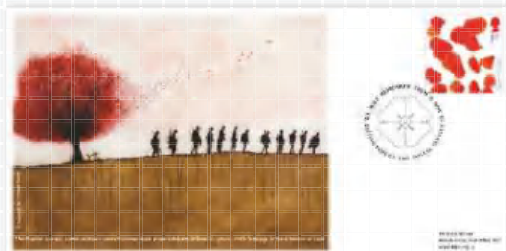
It is priced £137 in standard form, or £187 leather-bound.

COVER OF THE MONTH

For the first time, the British Forces Philatelic Service has issued a commemorative cover to mark Armistice Day on November 11.

Illustrated with an oil painting by Richard Salter, showing soldiers trudging away from makeshift graves under a tree resembling a poppy, it has a 1st class Poppy stamp with a 'We Will Remember Them' special handstamp with the BFPS 3195 serial number.

It is available from £6. Visit www.bfps.org.uk/shop



British Post & Go stamps printed with Gibraltar values!

The biggest error yet in the unfolding history of Post & Go stamps has appeared, in the form of British stamps machine-printed with Gibraltar values.

To add to Royal Mail's embarrassment, the self-adhesive stamps were printed not by a carelessly set-up roving machine at an exhibition, as might have been expected, but by a back-office machine at the philatelic service in Edinburgh.

Customers of Tallents House who received early orders of the home-printed equivalents of the stamps which were available at the Hong Kong 2015 International Stamp Exhibition (using the Hong Kong design from the Sea Travel pictorial set) were astonished to find that they included unfamiliar service indicators: Local Standard, UK Letter up to 20g, UK Letter up to 30g, EU Letter up to 20g, Worldwide up to 20g and Registered Fee.

It is reported that Royal Mail was alerted to the error by customers who failed to spot the printing error but noticed that they had been charged £7.68 but had a receipt for only £6.12. Once it became clear what had happened, the initial print-run was quickly removed from sale, so later orders should therefore be from subsequent print-runs with the correct values.

As we went to press, the scarcity of collectors' strips of the error remained unclear.

Post & Go pre-order printing has only recently been moved to Tallents House, to avoid relying on an outside contractor to produce the stamps for philatelic sale. Why the machine in question had the capability of printing Gibraltar stamps is a mystery. Why the printings were apparently not subjected to quality control checks is even more strange.

Royal Mail's success in exporting its Post & Go concept to other stamp issuing countries has been considered a feather in its cap, with Jersey, Guernsey, Gibraltar and Qatar adopting the vending machines and issuing stamps in the same format.

However this episode seems to expose a weakness in the handling of the software involved, which all of the countries involved will be keen to see resolved.



HOT OFF THE PRESS

Don Staddon has the inside line on British stamp printings, post office supplies and developments in postal mechanisation



SHACKLETON & ENDURANCE EXPEDITION PRINTING

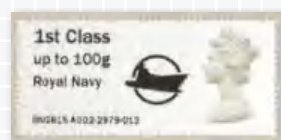
The Shackleton & The Endurance Expedition stamps were litho-printed by Cartor for ISP, on four different sheets of 60 stamps, each divided into two panes of 30 by a horizontal gutter.

Cylinder numbers are C1 x 3, phosphor C1, with the phosphor applied in two vignetted broad phosphor bands. The year '2016' can be found microprinted on each design.

POST & GO LOCATION IDENTIFIERS

From November 16, identifying logos were introduced on the Machin-head stamps vended at the four naval museums which have Post & Go machines.

Following swiftly on from the changes in the machine-printed text, with the initials of each museum replaced by something more recognisable (December issue, page 23), the logos give the stamps more character and clarity.



POST & GO ERRORS

Despite the new-style security overlay being used on the Winter Fur & Feather 2nd class Post & Go designs, which clearly reads '2nd class', we know of at least one post office machine which has been dispensing them with 1st class values.

All of the collectors' strips of four vended from the Post & Go machines at the Sindelfingen fair in Germany from October 29-31 had the wrong sequence of values: 1st, 1st Large, Europe up to 100g and Euro 20g/World 10g, instead of 1st, Euro 20g/World 20g, Europe up to 100g and Worldwide up to 20g. This was corrected for the Paris fair from November 5-8.

POST & GO DEVELOPMENTS

The Post & Go machines operating at the international exhibition in Hong Kong from November 20-24 offered the Hong Kong pictorial design from September's Sea Travel set (see left) as well as the Union Flag design.

Because of the small quantity required, these were printed digitally instead of by gravure. If the results are deemed satisfactory, there seems every likelihood that the same approach will be used again where appropriate.

BUYING POSTAGE ONLINE

Royal Mail's SmartStamp system for printing out postage from a personal computer, launched in 2003 and aimed largely at small businesses, is being discontinued on December 31. The reason announced is that the application relied on outdated software which could not easily be upgraded.

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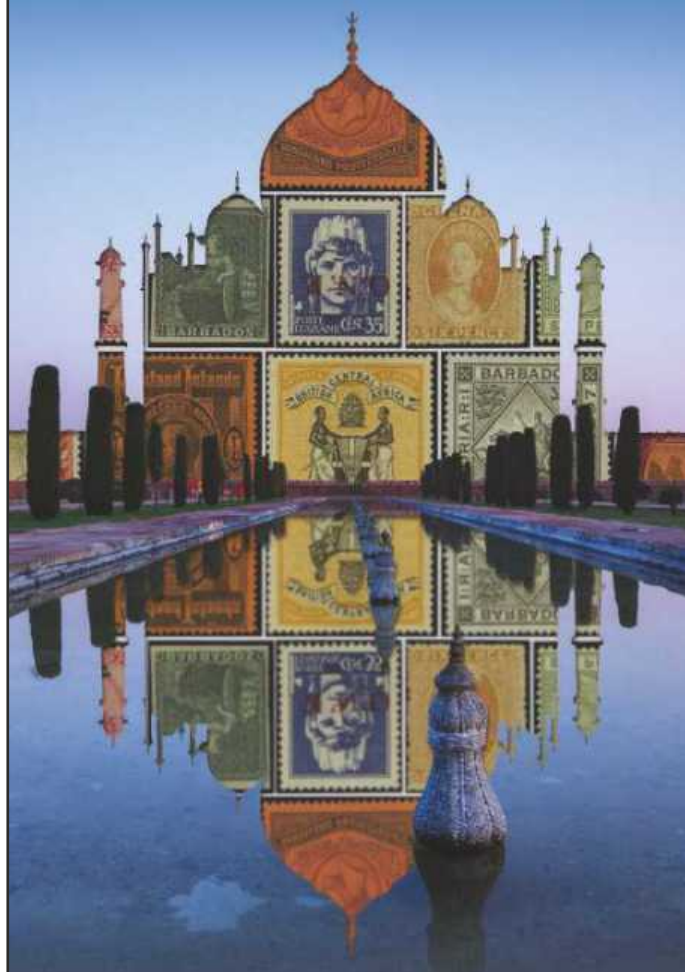
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Letters

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These pages are devoted to giving you the opportunity to have your say. Whether you want to praise or complain, suggest or advise, add information or correct it, or just get something off your chest, we'd love to hear from you.

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The Editor reads all letters, but is unable to answer them all personally. We reserve the right to edit letters for publication.

Some British mail is still transported by train

Your interesting feature on the Travelling Post Office (September issue, page 38) stated that the practice of sorting mail in transit on the railways came to an end in 2004. In fact, the carriage of all mail by rail in Britain was terminated at that time.

Even the use of trains merely to ferry mailbags from A to B was stopped, with the Post Office management citing the poor performance of the railway network as the reason.

More recently, however, Royal Mail realised that relying on road transport (plus a small number of air services centred on Liverpool Airport) to move mail around the country was not such a good idea, and returned to carrying some of it on trains.

The units used are Class 325 electric trains, built specifically for the carriage of mail in 1995-96, sometimes hauled by separate locomotives where the route involved is not fully electrified.

These trains are currently operated on behalf of Royal Mail by German rail freight company DB Schenker, a subsidiary of Deutsche Bundesbahn.

Mike Williamson, Morecambe

LETTER OF THE MONTH

Is Royal Mail deliberately shunning the idea of European integration?

I fully agree with John Crace's comments (December issue, page 33) regarding Royal Mail's decision not to issue a stamp on the Europa theme in 2015.

The last time Great Britain declined to issue a Europa stamp was in 2000, when the theme was the 50th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration, the French initiative which led to the founding of the European Coal & Steel Community and eventually to the European Economic Community and the European Union. Arguably, this was the most important development in Europe since the end of World War II.

Another opportunity for a stamp issue celebrating European integration was missed in 2007, when many other countries commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, the founding document of the European Union.

Evidence of a lack of engagement with Europe in Britain's stamp issuing policy over the years does not end there. There have been no special issues to commemorate Britain's tenure of the rotating Presidency of the European Council or the various phases of EU enlargement, although these are common from other countries. There was also a loss of interest in issues marking European parliamentary elections after 1989, and the withdrawal of the 'E' value definitive for postage to Europe in 2004.

In fact, the last truly European-related issue from Great Britain was as long ago as 1992, to celebrate the launch of the Single European Market.

Royal Mail seems to imagine that any sign of association with the EU is politically toxic.

Michael Cope, Dorking



ABOVE: The 1992 Single European Market issue was a false dawn for the theme of European integration

Europa themes are too weak to be important

I disagree with John Crace's comments on Europa stamp issues.

There are already too many British issues with meaningless subjects, produced mainly to balance Royal Mail's books. Stamps designed to meet the Europa theme, which is often very weak, would be just another one of them.

Steve Kennedy, Sidcup

Glowing reference

In response to your revelation that the Star Wars sheet stamps were printed with fluorescent logos, which were visible under ultra-violet light (December issue, page 23), I recall that a similar gimmick has been tried once before.

The 1997 Horror Stories issue, which was a contribution to the Europa theme of Tales & Legends, included subliminal scary images which were created in a similar way.

Ivan Bing, via e-mail

SOAPBOX

An unpromising job lot of old albums can still contain an exciting find, and even a unique exhibition piece. John Gledhill has the evidence

Auction houses haven't got the time to give close inspection to what look like routine stamp collections. So occasionally the successful bidder for a job lot of old albums will strike it lucky and discover something remarkable lurking within their pages.

There was a pleasant surprise waiting for one lucky buyer when he took a box full of albums home from a big London auction recently and gave them a closer look — not in the guise of an obscure variety of a stamp, as you might expect, but in the often underestimated form of a postal order.

On the back of a page devoted to the former British colony of the Gold Coast (now Ghana), he found an old British postal order overprinted for use there during the reign of King Edward VII.

British postal orders from this reign overprinted for other countries are extremely rare. In fact, only 18 were

previously known. But there was more...

After the buyer got in contact with the GB Overprints Society, and through them with the Postal Order Society, it became apparent that the layout of the 'Poundage Payable in Gold Coast Colony' overprint, with its 1d on ½d surcharge in black, had never been seen before. It is unique.

The society's list of known overprint types had to be recast, and the item (with its three Queen Victoria and King Edward VII 1d stamps and datestamp of July 2, 1907) was put up for sale again, this time in the specialist environment of the Postal Order Society's worldwide auction in November.

There, it sold for £1,200, the second highest auction price ever for an overprinted British postal order.

It was a welcome reminder that postal orders, which are officially deemed to be postal stationery by the

Fédération Internationale de Philatélie, can form an interesting component of any country collection and any competitive exhibit.

It also represented a great return on the modest sum paid for the job lot at the original auction. The lesson to be learned is clear: never dismiss unpromising old albums, because they can contain outstanding gems.

John Gledhill

CONTACTS

Postal Order Society
www.postalordersociety.blogspot.co.uk

GB Overprints Society
www.gbos.org.uk

For more information on either society, contact John Gledhill.
E-mail: jmgstamps@jgledhill.me.uk



ABOVE: Great Britain King Edward VII postal order with unique Gold Coast overprint type, used in July 1907

Blast from the past

My mother, aged 92, was amazed when a friend showed her your feature about covers signed by Battle of Britain pilots (October issue, page 50)

The picture on the first page is of a 10th anniversary first day cover autographed by my father, Squadron Leader J W Frost, in 1950. My mother had no idea that he had signed covers such as this, although he was indeed stationed at RAF Leuchars at that time.

He remained a serving officer after World War II, and progressed to the rank of Air Commodore before retiring in 1983.

Loraine Hopwood (née Frost), via e-mail



Stamp honours someone who isn't famous yet

British actor John Boyega was portrayed in the Star Wars set because he will appear in the latest film in the series, although at the time of the issue this had not yet been premiered.

At the age of 23, he has appeared in a couple of other films, but none that most of us will have heard of, let alone seen.

Is this the most pointless portrayal ever on a British stamp?

Frank Dashwood, Shepton Mallet



Why do postal workers hate neat cancellations?

I send my friend a parcel bearing each set of British stamps, and as you can imagine he was very upset to receive this mutilated Star Wars set.

The staff in my local post office are very good, and had cancelled the two strips of stamps, complete with selvage, very neatly.

Unfortunately this was not enough for someone else in the postal service, somewhere between Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire and Ferndown in Dorset, who is either blind or hates neat cancellations.

As you can see, he or she has used a biro on the stamps, with the result that they are now no use to a philatelist. It is a great pity that someone could do this so unnecessarily.

Barry Atkins, Aylesbury



Anglo-American exchange deal?

Your review of Royal Mail's Star Wars issue (November issue, page 22) pointed out that it commemorates an American film franchise. What was not mentioned was that almost exactly two years ago, in November 2013, the United States Postal Service issued a set of 20 stamps on the subject of Harry Potter, which is fundamentally a British franchise.

It all seems to add up to tangible evidence



that the much vaunted 'special relationship' between the US and the UK extends to philately too!

Mike Dornbrock, Cedar Falls, Iowa, USA

Trashy focus on film merchandising shames Royal Mail...

John Crace excelled himself with his witty and spirited criticism of the trashy Star Wars issue in his Devil's Advocate column (December issue, page 33).

British stamps have become a national shame, thanks to Royal Mail's determination to cash in on the global market in television and movie merchandise with Micronesian levels of integrity.

Sadly, there is no more insatiable customer base than the millions of gullible souls who will pay inflated prices for any old rubbish that bears the name of their favourite science fiction series.

£99 for an 'X-Wing Bundle'? You can buy a very decent Penny Black for that.

Next year's postage, or a genuine piece of history? Tough choice...

Eric Eunson, via e-mail

...but the Star Wars stamps have been selling like hot cakes

When I purchased some Star Wars stamps for use on my personal mail, the counter clerk in my local post office told me that she'd never seen stamps sell so quickly. She said both loose stamps and presentation packs were proving very popular.

So it seems Royal Mail has got it right this time. May the Force be with them!

Alan Mudge, King's Lynn

Similarly, our contact at the philatelic service at Tallents House told us she was extremely busy trying to cope with an unprecedented number of orders for the issue. -Ed

HOT TOPICS

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7. **Selling Systems.** It is a 'given' you can order sets / singles in standard condition from dealers ... but the moment a stamp becomes used, or even mounted mint it is no longer standard. Is it heavy hinged, is the cancel parcel, wavy or CDS (circular date stamp)? Each stamp requires separate handling and unique pricing so the only way to handle such efficiently is in a selling system.

8. **Integrated Selling Systems. Avon & Omniphil Approvals** - 20 years ago our business sold in 2 different selling systems: **individually** priced stamps upon home **approval** and **unit priced** 'loose' stamps sent to collectors as **mixtures** (today you can still request either / both from the coupons beside the index). A bit like 'Water-Works' and 'Electricity' in monopoly the 2 systems allowed us to buy more, sell more and pay higher prices to obtain better stock ... but we had no outlet for rarer / high value stamps so ...

9. **Universal Philatelic Auctions.** ... 15 years ago we created and added UPA to allow us to handle more valuable stamps not suited to Approvals, but we knew that in order to eliminate the 'unsold' issue we needed to come up with a further unique selling proposition ...

10. **Best of Conventional Auctions.** ... so we scoured the stamp

world for best practice ideas and all of the features that collectors like you love - such as lots unconditionally guaranteed or dislike such as pernicious buyer's premiums. UPA employed all of the best features and then carefully added unique features such as ...

11. **Standardised Shipping, Insurance Included.** ... so that no matter how much you win you'll know in advance exactly how much delivery will be ... (and we made it modest too) ... finally, and this is the **painful part** we had to recognise that if something was not selling it was too expensive ... so ...

12. **Unique UPA Reducing Estimate System.** ... we created the unique UPA Reducing Estimate System. Creating transparency we grabbed the bull by the horns telling you how many times a lot has been previously unsold at the end of each description ... and although we initially set to reduce by 10% each time unsold ... we didn't; in practice we reduce by 11%, then a further 12%, 13%, 14% each time re-offered and so on till sold or given away ...

13. **Today, almost 15 years later.** ... but would it work? ... Today almost 15 years later the UPA reducing estimate system is unique to the trade and 1,996 different collectors and some dealers bid in our last auction – 90% of whom were successful. Fusing all of the synergies of integrated selling systems combined with the most efficient use of stamps in the industry the system works thanks to loyal support from Collectors like you. Collectors tend to stay with UPA but as clients come and sadly some go ... we need to attract new clients joining to maintain the integrity of the system which is why ...
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ACCURATE VALUATIONS I have over thirty years full time experience as a major buyer in the stamp trade, and I buy from all the main UK & Continental auction houses. I make accurate, efficient valuations based on the very latest market values.

FAIR VALUATIONS I work on high turnover with low profit margins which means I must buy - and I pay the top market price to make sure I do. I cannot afford to waste my time and yours by making unrealistic offers which will not stand comparison.

IMMEDIATE PAYMENT All my offers are backed by immediate payment.

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COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION

The Star Wars issue was ruthlessly exploited by Royal Mail to bring in every possible penny. Is blatant commercialism a bad thing for philately, or could it be a good thing?

In October, Royal Mail celebrated the Star Wars series of blockbuster films in a big way. With 10 gummed stamps, a self-adhesive miniature sheet, various presentation packs, first day covers, generic and customised Smilers sheets and framed souvenirs, it exploited the issue for all it was worth.

For the first time in a while, it promoted its product range through many post offices, as well as through the media. It knew the film series had a huge fan base, and was determined to capitalise on that fact.

Many felt that this was simply not philately as they know it, saying that stamps should reflect the nation — its history, its achievements, its people, its heritage — rather than being commercial products. These collectors probably decided many moons ago not to buy modern material.

There are many others who still buy new issues, and accept that today's special stamps are regarded more as collectables than as receipts for postage.

That being the case, would it be so wrong for Royal Mail to be so blatantly commercial with every issue it produces?

We are all painfully aware how few stamps are used on mail these days. When you go into a post office, you are often encouraged to use the Post & Go machine; or, if you do go to the counter, your postage tends to come in the form of a Horizon label printed to order by the postal clerk. If you want actual stamps, you have to ask for them specifically, and they may be provided with reluctance!

However, stamps and collectables do still provide a useful income for Royal Mail, and this is a prime example. Let's not kid ourselves, Star Wars fans will not become stamp collectors because of this

issue, as their interest lies solely with Star Wars. However, their purchases will help to make the stamp programme profitable, ensuring that special issues continue to be produced.

Even those who are content to run the course with their collection of modern Great Britain often complain about the number of issues, and their high face values. If more sets

reached a larger audience, however, and could be milked for all they are worth, that might leave scope for reducing the frequency of issues, or the number of stamps in each, or their face values.

Naturally Royal Mail hopes that every theme chosen for a stamp issue is going to have wide appeal. In reality, some will attract more attention than



THE AUTHOR
Richard West is Stamp Magazine's Editor at Large and a Past President of the National Philatelic Society

others. The company can judge from its own sales figures which sets have that magic touch, and I am certain every reader will have some idea too.

Concentrating on themes with the widest commercial appeal ought to lead to the more forceful promotion of special issues. At the moment Royal Mail encourages customers to order philatelic products through its website, but other retail outlets could be considered for issues expected to be money-spinners.

It would be a major marketing exercise, but for each issue it should be possible to find new outlets prepared to sell stamp-related products. The 'mark-up' necessary would preclude basic mint stamps, but, as the Star Wars issue has shown, there is an increasing array of other material that can be offered.

The general public will still respond to stamps if they are well marketed. The Gold Medal Winners series of 2012 proved that, with large numbers of customers buying the miniature sheets in response to British success in the London Olympics.

The sales of greeting cards seem to be as strong as ever, so maybe people could yet be persuaded to start using more stamps on their mail.

If it came down to a choice between the current situation, where more issues are produced at ever greater cost as Royal Mail tries to meet its tough financial targets, or a different future, in which fewer but more commercially inspired issues are targeted at larger audiences, which would you opt for? ■



ABOVE: Royal Mail promotional image for the Star Wars set, which does not correspond with how the stamps were actually printed but suggests an infinite array of designs!

'Many philatelists accept that today's stamps are regarded more as collectables than as receipts for postage. So would it be so wrong for Royal Mail to be overtly commercial with every issue?'

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Could a more commercial focus benefit British stamps and philately as a whole, or is it an unthinkable sell-out?

E-mail your comments to guy.thomas@mytimemedia.com

GB DEFINITIVE SETS

WHY PAY MORE FOR THESE STAMPS IN THE SAME CONDITION ELSEWHERE?

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187/96	1883 Lilac & Green 1/2d to 1/-	(10v)	POR	£1350.00	£310.00	£150.00	£32.00
197e/214	1887 Jubilee 1/2d to 1/-	(14v)	£499.00	£188.00	£79.00	£37.00	£9.20
215/314	1902 Edward VII 1/2d to 1/-	(15v)	£389.00	£145.00	£59.00	£19.00	£5.50
279/86	1911 Edward VII Perf 15x14	(5v)	£135.00	£58.00	£24.00	£11.00	£6.50
322/50	1911/12 Downey Heads (MacKennals)	(10v)	£110.00	£45.00	£25.00	£15.00	£4.50
351/95	1912 George V Royal Cypher 1/2d to 1/-	(15v)	£240.00	£75.00	£32.00	£12.00	£3.75
351/95	do. ex 9d (Green)	(14v)	£120.00	£45.00	£22.00	£8.50	£1.95
385a	1912 6d perf 14	(lv)	£77.00	£42.00	£46.00	£22.00	£10.00
393a	1912 9d Olive Green	(lv)	£142.00	£44.00	£8.00	£4.25	£1.50
397/8	1913 Mult. Cypher 1/2d & 1d	(2v)	£390.00	£220.00	£220.00	£155.00	£69.00
413a/17	1918 Bradbury 2/6, 5/-, 10/-	(3v)	£785.00	£310.00	£78.00	£35.00	£9.95
418/29	1924 George V Block Cypher 1/2d to 1/-	(12v)	£137.00	£40.00	£14.00	£5.00	£1.50
418a/21b	1924 Sideways Watermark	(4v)	£148.00	£52.00	£46.00	£22.00	£5.50
439/49	1934 George V Photogravure 1/2d to 1/-	(11v)	£46.00	£16.50	£8.50	£3.50	£0.95
439a/42b	1934 Sideways Watermark	(4v)	£164.00	£54.00	£46.00	£15.00	£4.25
439Wi/41Wi	1934 Inverted Watermark	(3v)	£18.00	£7.25	£2.75	£1.20	£0.30
450/52	1934 Re-Engraved 2/6 to 10/-	(3v)	£650.00	£295.00	£44.00	£25.00	£6.50
457Wi/59Wi	1936 Inverted Watermark	(3v)	£9.50	£3.40	£3.50	£1.20	£0.40
462/75	1937 George VI Dark Colours 1/2d to 1/-	(15v)	£21.00	£9.50	£2.80	£0.95	£0.40
462a/66a	1937 Sideways Watermark	(5v)	£84.00	£36.00	£36.00	£18.00	£6.50
462Wi/66Wi	1937 Inverted Watermark	(5v)	£86.00	£37.00	£7.50	£2.20	£0.65
476/78b	1939 George VI 2/6 to £1	(6v)	£225.00	£110.00	£21.00	£9.50	£5.50
485/90	1941 George VI Light 1/2d to 3d	(6v)	£1.10	£0.60	£0.65	£0.30	£0.10
486a/89a	1941 Sideways Watermark	(3v)	£14.95	£11.50	£13.50	£6.40	£2.35
485Wi/89Wi	1941 Inverted Watermark	(3v)	£3.15	£1.50	£0.60	£0.25	£0.10
503/08	1950 George VI Colour Change	(6v)	£1.35	£0.75	£0.75	£0.40	£0.15
504a/07a	1950 Sideways Watermark	(4v)	£1.10	£0.75	£1.80	£1.10	£0.35
503Wi/07Wi	1950 Inverted Watermark	(5v)	£8.00	£4.50	£4.95	£2.00	£0.75
509/12	1951 Festivals 2/6 to £1	(4v)	£42.00	£21.00	£8.00	£3.50	£1.50
515/31	1952 Tudor to 1/6	(17v)	£46.00	£17.00	£15.00	£5.00	£2.50
517a/19a	1952 Sideways Watermark	(3v)	£2.95	£2.20	£2.80	—	£0.50
515Wi/19Wi	1952 Inverted Watermark	(5v)	£19.00	£14.00	£13.50	£5.95	£2.30
536/39	1955 Waterlow 2/6 to £1	(4v)	£132.00	£55.00	£24.00	£5.95	£1.50
540/56	1955 St. Edward to 1/6	(18v)	£69.00	£22.00	£13.50	£5.00	£1.75
542a/45b	1955 Sideways Watermark	(5v)	£10.95	£7.50	£9.50	£3.60	£1.25
540Wi/45Wi	1955 Inverted Watermark	(7v)	£11.50	£7.50	£7.50	£3.90	£1.20
561/66	1957 Graphite (lst) 1/2d to 3d	(6v)	£3.95	£3.20	£3.50	£2.00	£0.90
570/86	1958 Mult. Crowns 1/2d to 1/6	(17v)	£3.80	—	£2.20	£0.80	£0.30
570a/76ab	1958 Sideways Watermark	(8v)	£4.75	£3.80	£4.50	£2.25	£0.80
570Wi/76Wi	1958 Inverted Watermark	(9v)	£69.00	—	£35.00	£24.00	£8.50
536a/9a	1958 1st De La Rue 2/6 to £1	(4v)	£399.00	£225.00	£44.00	£12.50	£3.40
587/94	1958 2nd Graphite 1/2d to 4 1/2d (Upr Wmk)	(8v)	£49.00	—	£46.00	£36.00	£10.95
592a	1958 3d Graphite Error (2 lines)	(1v)	£425.00	POR	£260.00	£180.00	—
587Wi/92Wi	1958 2nd Graphite Inverted Watermark	(5v)	£49.00	—	£42.00	£33.00	£10.95
595/98	1959 2nd De La Rue 2/6 to £1	(4v)	£84.00	£38.00	£6.00	£2.00	£0.55
599/609	1959 Phosphor Graphite 1/2d to 4 1/2d	(8v)	£37.00	£32.00	£32.00	—	£12.50
605a	1959 2d Error of Watermark	(1v)	£85.00	£66.00	£64.00	£46.00	—
610/18a	1960 Mult. Crown Phos. 1/2d to 1/6	(17v)	£2.95	—	£3.50	—	—
610/18a	1960 Mult. Crown Phos. 1/2d to 1/6	(24v)	£39.00	—	£33.00	—	—
610a/16ab	1960 Sideways Watermark	(9v)	£15.50	—	£14.50	£8.50	£3.25
610Wi/16aWi	1960 Inverted Watermark (2 x 2 1/2d)	(10v)	£149.00	—	£145.00	—	£35.00
595a/8a	1963 Castles (Bradbury) 2/6 to £1	(4v)	£6.95	£5.00	£3.50	£1.40	£0.50
723/44Ev	1967 Machin 1/2d to 1/9 All Types (ex 1/- Pale G. A.)	(32v)	£9.50	—	—	—	—
759/62	1967 Machin 1d to 1/9 Gum Arabic (inc. 1/- Pale GA)	(10v)	£7.50	—	—	—	—
787/90	1967 Castle (Bradbury) Unwatermarked 2/6 to £1	(4v)	£5.95	£4.50	£3.50	£1.50	£0.65
829/31b	1969 Machin 2/6 to £1	(4v)	£4.40	£3.30	£3.30	£1.35	£0.65
1026/28	1970/2 Machin 10p to £1	(4v)	£2.60	—	£0.50	£0.20	£0.15
1410/13	1977/87 HighValues to £5	(8v)	£21.00	—	£12.50	£6.50	£2.20
1611/14	1984 Framas Complete 1/2p to 17p	(34v)	£6.95	—	£9.50	—	—
1658	1988 Castles to £5	(4v)	£11.50	(VFU £2.50)	£1.50	£0.65	£0.30
1611/14R	1992 Castles to £5 (Gold Head) inc £3.00	(5v)	£17.50	(VFU £3.50)	£2.50	£1.40	£0.50
1993/96	1993 Britannia £10.00	(1v)	£12.95	(VFU £5.50)	£4.50	£1.75	£0.75
Y1800-03	1994 Re-engraved Castles to £5	(4v)	£15.00	(VFU £6.00)	£4.00	£1.50	£0.55
Y1746-49	1997 Enschede Castles to £5	(4v)	£24.00	(VFU £7.50)	£5.50	£2.50	£1.25
	1999/2000 Machin High Values (£1.50-£5)	(4v)	£17.95	(VFU £4.75)	£3.75	£2.25	£1.00
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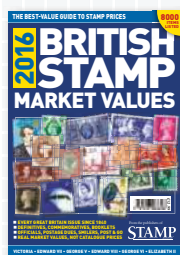
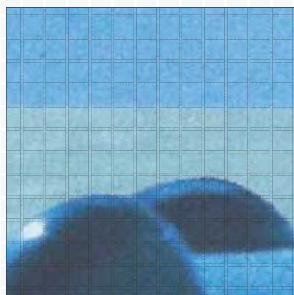


COMPETITION Spot The Stamp

Take a close look at the enlarged detail of a GB stamp shown on the right. If you can identify which stamp it's from, you could win a copy of *British Stamp Market Values 2016*, the authoritative annual price guide from the publishers of *Stamp Magazine*.

All you have to do is tell us which stamp it is, including its value, the name of the set it is from and the year of issue. Send your answer on a postcard (or sealed envelope) with your name, address and telephone number, to Spot The Stamp (Jan), *Stamp Magazine*, PO Box 269, Haslingden, Rossendale, Lancashire BB4 0DJ.

The closing date for entries is January 14, 2016, and the first correct answer drawn from our postbag after that date will win the book. Good luck!



October's winner



The Spot The Stamp winner from the October issue is T Pearce from Plymouth, who correctly identified the mystery stamp (left) as a 1st class value from the 2010 *Classic Album Covers* set, showing the cover of *Tubular Bells* by Mike Oldfield.

COMPETITION WINNERS Rugby World Cup presentation pack

In our October issue, we offered you the chance to win a Rugby World Cup presentation pack, courtesy of Royal Mail.

We asked you in which year England's success in the tournament was celebrated with a stamp issue, and the answer was 2003.

The 12 lucky winners whose correct answers were drawn at random were Annie Purday from Newark, P E Smith from Halifax, Dave Tetley from St Helens, John Foulger from Norwich, Beryl Turner from Cottingham, A Brooks from Smethwick, Brian McDonald from Newtownards, Rod Ash from Leeds, Terry Fleming from Malvern, Allen Cook from Kenilworth, Brian Hughes from Corby, and D M Squires from Warrington.

Congratulations to all our winners. Your prizes will be posted out within the next few weeks.



WIN



a copy of
Royal
Mail's
2015
yearbook,
worth
£137



We have a 2015 yearbook to give away to one lucky winner, courtesy of Royal Mail.

The lavishly produced album contains a mint example of every British commemorative stamp released during 2015, and well illustrated background stories

behind the issues. Its normal retail price is £137.

To enter, simply answer the question below, fill in the coupon and send it to the address shown.

The closing date is January 14, 2016, and the winners will be drawn at random after that date.

QUESTION

Which special stamp issue of 2015 included a design illustrating a game of croquet?

Terms & Conditions: Entry is open to UK residents with a permanent UK address, except employees (and their families) of MyTimeMedia, its printers and agents, the suppliers of the prizes and any other companies associated with the competitions. Winners must be aged 18 or over. Only one entry per household is permissible. No responsibility can be accepted for entries lost, damaged or delayed in the post. Winners will be notified by post, telephone or e-mail. Prizes are not transferable to another individual and no cash or other alternatives will be offered. The promoters reserve the right to amend or alter the terms of competitions and reject entries from entrants not entering into the spirit of the competition. Unless stated otherwise, all postal entries must be made on the relevant coupon printed in the magazine. The winners will be chosen from all correct entries received by the closing date stated. The decision of the judges is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

STAMP MAGAZINE YEARBOOK COMPETITION

Answer

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R5519-15HL	GB (Hingeless)	£44.95
R5547-15	Guernsey	£23.95
R5548-15	Jersey	£25.95
R5518-15	Channel Isles	£44.95
R5521-15	Isle of Man	£23.95

Ref	COMMEMORATIVE SUPPLEMENTS	Price
R5520-15	GB Special (Oblong)	£24.95
R5232-15	GB Comms & Greetings (reg)	£26.95
R5232-15HL	GB Commem & Greetings (lux)	£36.95

ALSO AVAILABLE		Price
SG One Country 4-ring binder (red)		£16.95
SG GB One Country 4 ring binder only (red)		£16.95
SG One Country 22-ring binder (red)		£19.95
DAVO/SG binder/slipcase (reg)		£47.95
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R5285LXFS-15	GB Fast Stamps (Lux)	£16.95
R5285RGFS-15	GB Fast Stamps (Reg)	£10.45
R5285RG15FSG	GB (Reg) inc. Fast Stamps	£45.45
R5285LX15FSG	GB (Lux) inc Fast Stamps	£67.50
R5292LX-15	Alderney Luxury	£16.95
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2015 STAMP ISSUES



SG No	COMMEMORATIVES	U/M	F/U
3658-667	Alice in Wonderland: 2x 2nd; 2x 1st; 2x 81p; 2x £1.28; 2x £1.47	14.15	14.40
3668-669	Alice in Wonderland 1st (2) s/a	4.10	4.10
3670-677	Smilers 8x 1st	7.45	7.70
MS3678	Smilers 1st (8) s/a	7.45	7.70
3679-686	Inventive Britain: 2x 1st; 2x 81p; 2x£1.28; 2x£1.47;	12.55	12.80
3687-696	Bridges: 10x 1st;	9.30	9.55
3697-706	Comedy Greats: 10x 1st;	9.30	9.55
3707-708	Comedy Greats: 1st (2) s/a	4.10	4.10
3709	175th Anniv of the 1d black; (1)	2.50	2.50
MS3710	175th Anniv 1d black: (x4)	3.80	3.80
3710v	175th Anniv 1d black, EUROPHILEX	29.50	29.50
	Do.1st class s/a (ex booklet) (1)	3.80	3.80
3711-716	First World War 1915; 3x 1st, 3x £1.52	9.70	9.95
3717	First World War (Poppies) 1st	1.95	1.95
3718-723	Magna Carta: 2x 1st, 2x £1.33, 2x £1.52	10.45	10.70

SG No	COMMEMORATIVES	U/M	F/U
3724-729	Battle of Waterloo: 2x 1st, 2x £1, 2x £1.52	9.45	9.70
3730-733	Battle of Waterloo (2nd issue) 2x 1st, 2x £1.33	5.90	6.15
MS3734	Battle of Waterloo: M/S	5.90	6.15
MS3735	75th Anniv Battle of Britain: M/S	8.85	9.10
3736-741	Bees 2nd, 1st, £1.00, £1.33, £1.52, £2.15	10.90	11.15
MS3742	Bees M/S	5.90	6.15
3743	Honey Bee 1st (s/a)	2.05	2.05
MS3747	Long to Reign Over Us M/S	7.40	7.76
3748-755	Rugby World Cup 2x 2nd, 2x 1st, 2x £1, 2x £1.52	11.10	11.35
3756-757	Rugby World Cup 2x1st (s/a)	4.10	4.10
3758-769	Star Wars 12x1st	11.35	11.60
MS3770	Star Wars M/S (s/a)	5.95	5.95
3771-778	Christmas 2nd, 1st, 2ndL, 1stL £1.00, £1.33, £1.52, £2.15	14.25	14.25
MS3779	Christmas M/S	14.25	14.25

SG No	2015 DEFINITIVES (s/a)	U/M	F/U
U2934a-2940c	Defs (6): £1.33; £1.52; £2.25; £2.45; £3.15; £3.30 (issued 24.03.15)	£21.00	£21.25
U3019a	81p deep turquoise (ex booklet DY12)	£6.50	£6.50
U3020a	97p dull purple (ex booklet DY12)	£4.00	£4.00
U3022	£1.33 yellow ochre (ex booklet DY13)	£3.00	£3.00
U3744	1st lilac (Long to Reign Over Us) s/a	£2.50	£2.50



2015 POST & GO ISSUES

2015 REGIONALS (Gummed)						
Value	England	N.Ireland	Scotland	Wales	U/M	F/U
£1.00	EN 35	NI 106	S 136	W 127	£1.85	£1.85
£1.33	EN 43	NI 114	S 144	W 135	£2.25	£2.25

FS117	Working Sails	(6x 1st)	£6.00	£6.90
FS125	Heraldic Beasts	(6x 1st)	£6.00	£6.90
FS130	Sea Travel	(6x 1st)	£6.00	£6.90
FS136-139	Winter Fur	(4)	£7.75	£7.75

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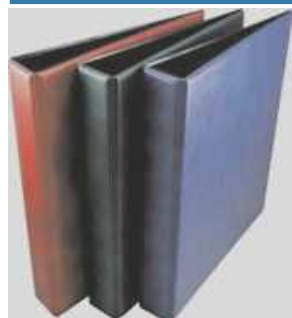
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Old Dutch

The first stamp issue of the Netherlands did its job so effectively that its combination of three values remained in sole use for 12 years. Plating, postmarks and usage provide ample complexity for specialist collectors

■ Report by Allan Brink

Although fêted for being the pathfinders in classic philately, most European countries' first stamp issues did not endure very long.

In many cases they were replaced, supplemented or redesigned shortly after their issue, as the postal authorities got to grips with the practicalities of their use, responded to the danger of fraud or improved their printing technology.

The first issue of the Netherlands was unusual in that it lasted a full 12 years, and as a result it offers many interesting challenges for specialist collectors.

Modern state

The Kingdom of the Netherlands which emerged after the carving up of Napoleon's defeated French Empire at the Congress of Vienna in 1814-15 included what would become Belgium and Luxembourg. However, this state remained intact for less than a generation.

Belgium gained independence in 1830 following a revolution, and when its sovereignty was recognised in 1839 it also led to the independence of Luxembourg.

Although the King of the Netherlands would also rule as Grand Duke of Luxembourg for most of the 19th century, it was a separate political entity, with its own postal arrangements.

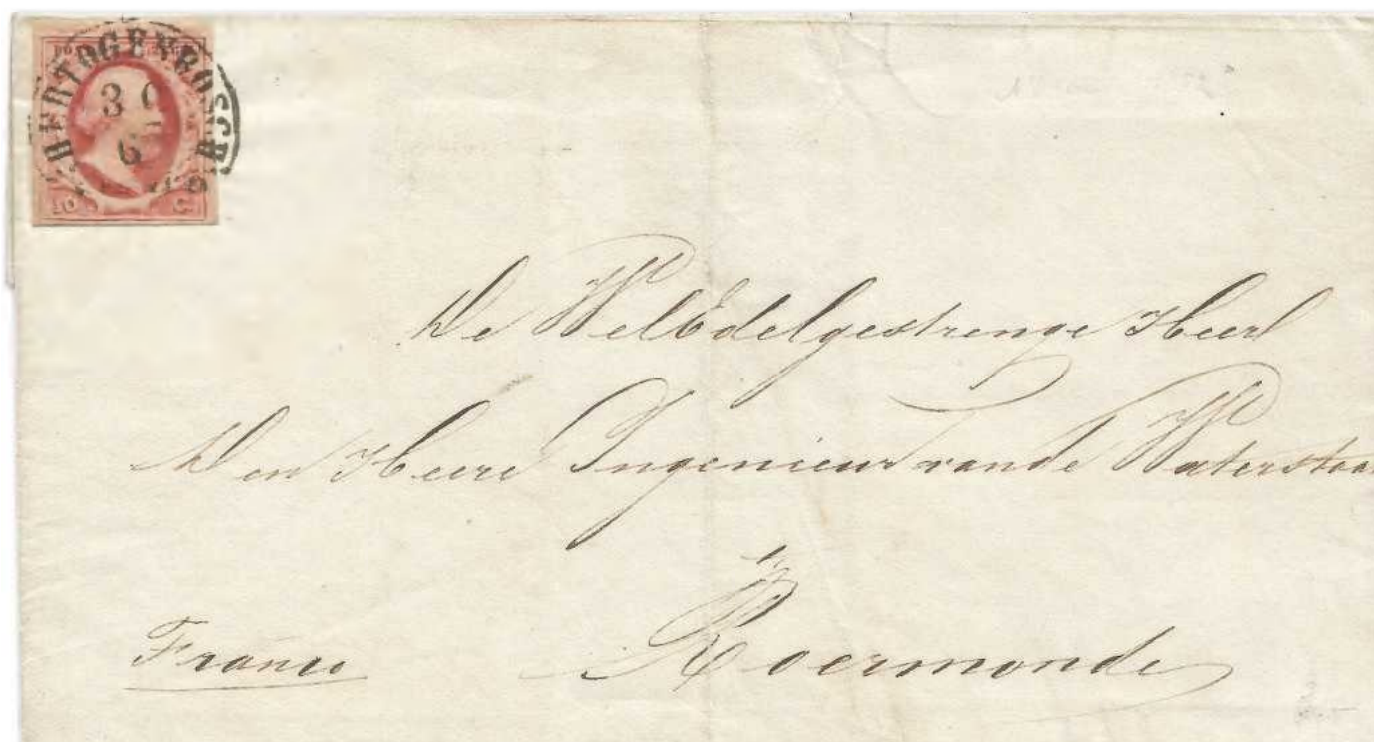
The power and wealth of the Netherlands might have declined since its golden age in the 17th century, but it retained a buoyant economy, based on international trade and gradual industrialisation, and a worldwide empire, of which the most important part was the Dutch East Indies.

From as early as 1848, the Netherlands was a constitutional monarchy, with an increasingly liberal and democratic system of

RIGHT: Netherlands 1852-64 5c blue, the lowest value in the country's first stamp issue, portraying King William III



ABOVE: The other two values in the set were the 10c red and 15c orange



'The 5c was printed from six plates, and the 10c from ten. Plates are hard to identify with certainty unless the position of the stamp on the sheet is defined as well'

government. Following the trend in other European countries, it introduced postal reform in 1850, aimed at simplifying postal rates and facilitating the efficient mailing of letters and documents.

Rates reform

Postal reform was introduced on September 1, 1850, with standardised postage rates based on both weight and distance.

For a 1st class letter weighing up to 15g, the rates were 5c up to a distance of 30km, 10c for distances between 30km and 100km, and 15c for distances in excess of 100km (although this upper rate would be abolished on July 5, 1855).

The basic rate was doubled for weights above 15g, tripled for weights above 30g, and quadrupled for weights above 50g.

Three of a kind

Curiously, adhesive stamps were not issued until January 1, 1852, some 14 months later.

The three stamps in the first issue neatly matched the rates by way of a 5c blue, a 10c red and a 15c orange sharing the same design. This had

a portrait of King William III in an oval surrounded by an ornamental frame, with the inscriptions limited to 'Post Zegel' (postage stamp) at the top and the denomination in cents at the bottom.

The design was line-engraved by J W Kaiser (who had also been involved in Belgium's first stamp issue in 1849) and plates were produced in Brussels by a company called Wiener using a roll-transfer process based on a single mother die, with a separate engraving adding the denomination of each

ABOVE: Early cover from s'Hertogenbosch to Roermond franked with a single 10c, covering the rate for the lowest weight class (up to 15g) and the second distance class (30km-100km)

BELOW: The major variety in the issue is 'horn on forehead' flaw, resulting from a damaged mother die, affecting every 10c stamp from plate 7



ABOVE: Portrait of King William III, painted by Nicolaas Pieneman in 1859

stamp in the lower left corner.

The stamps were printed at the Royal Dutch Mint in Utrecht, in sheets of 100 on hand-made paper with no watermark. They were arranged in four blocks of 25, separated by 10mm margins, so that post office staff could easily divide a full imperforate sheet

FIRST ISSUE OF THE NETHERLANDS 1852-64



ABOVE: Early circular cancellation of November 9 from Zutphen, with a slab-serif inscription and no year included with the date



ABOVE: Later circular cancellation of April 24 from Venlo, with a slab-serif inscription and the year flanking the day and month



ABOVE: Later circular cancellation of April 25 from Maastricht, with a sans-serif inscription and the year included in a lower position

into four panes, facilitating the cutting-out of individual stamps.

This sheet composition means that both horizontal and vertical inter-panneau pairs can be found, although these are very rare and sought-after.

Printing and plating

Since the issue remained in use for 12 years, the stamps were reprinted numerous times and overall print quantities were high: more than



ABOVE: Rare three-colour cover, sent from Amsterdam to Berlin on July 4, 1859, correctly paying the 30c rate to Prussia



LEFT & BELOW: Both horizontal and vertical inter-panneau pairs exist, but they are scarce

20 million of the 5c, almost 18 million of the 10c and even 2.4 million of the 15c top value.

The 5c blue was printed from six different plates between January 1852 and February 1863, and also exists in a large palette of different shades, as the printers could never

replicate the same colour each time they had to print more.

The 10c red was printed from no fewer than 10 different plates, with all stamps from plate 7 showing the 'horn on the forehead' variety, where the mother die was scratched, leaving a short but





ABOVE: An undated rectangular boxed 'Franco' cancellation was introduced from April 1861, with a circular datestamp appearing elsewhere on the cover



ABOVE: Line cancellations can also be found, such as this one from Oosterwolde

'It took quite some time before stamps were universally accepted, as their use was not compulsory. Even by 1864, only around 25% of letters bore them'

prominent line sticking out from the head of the king; the plate was used for some time, before it was retouched for use as plate 8.

As the top value, with less usage than the others, the 15c orange was printed from only one plate. Nevertheless there is great variation in shades, in a range from orange-yellow to dark-orange.

In most cases, apart from plate 7 and 8 of the 10c, plates are hard to identify with certainty unless the position of the stamp on the sheet is defined as well. However, the issue has been thoroughly researched, and there is specialist literature (albeit written in Dutch) explaining how to plate it.

Dutch philatelists have traditionally written the plate and position numbers on the back of these stamps in pencil, which can be helpful.

Further clues are provided by over-inking. The first printings were made on white paper, but discipline slipped over time and the plates were not properly wiped off between printings, leaving many of the later stamps with excess ink.

Postmarks

There is a rich variety in the cancellations used on these stamps, taking up no fewer than 84 pages

in the NVPH specialist catalogue. However, there are several basic types to look for.

The first cancellations used were circular handstamps with the city name around the top, the date in numerals in the middle, and 'Franco' under a horizontal line at the bottom.

At first these had 'Egyptian' (slab-serif) inscriptions and the date did not include the year, but later types did indicate the year, and introduced a 'Grotesque' (sans-serif) typeface.

From April 12, 1861, stamps were cancelled with a new rectangular boxed postmark simply inscribed 'Franco', with a circular datestamp applied elsewhere on the cover where it was more legible.

This later style of postmark offers clues when it comes to plating the stamps, as it would not usually be found on a 5c from plates 1-2 or on a 10c from plates 1-3.

Long-line cancellations comprising a town name can also be found, as can numeral cancellations. Special postmarks were used on mail trains.

Usage

The postal service was quite sophisticated, with 120 fully-fledged post offices, 407 minor letter collecting agencies and an

impressive total of 14,500km (about 900 miles) of postal routes.

The total volume of mail delivered increased steeply in the years following postal reform, from 10 million letters in 1852 to 17.5 million in 1864.

As in many pioneering countries, however, it took quite some time before stamps were universally

DID YOU KNOW?

The royal portrait used for the Netherlands' first stamps is very similar to that seen on Luxembourg's debut issue, which appeared just nine months later.

That's because King William III of the Netherlands was also Grand Duke William III of Luxembourg. The big difference is that he faces right on the Dutch issue, and left on the Grand Duchy issue!



FIRST ISSUE OF THE NETHERLANDS 1852-64



ABOVE: Rare mint block of 10 of the 10c red, which would have been cut from a pane of 25

Twelve-year itch

The 1852 series met the Netherlands' postal requirements in a very satisfactory way, which ensured its longevity.

When it was finally replaced, in 1864, the new series had the same denominations and colours, but it was perforated and redesigned around a new royal portrait.

It looks as if the King had retained most of his hair through middle age! ■



ABOVE: Late use of the two higher values in the 1852 series on a cover to Belfast dated September 21, 1863

accepted, as their use was not compulsory and there was no financial incentive offered to customers in the form of cheaper postage rates.

In 1852, around 13% of letters were franked with stamps. By 1864, when they had been available for

12 years, this had risen to only 25%.

Covers sent abroad are fairly rare, except to neighbouring Belgium and the German states of Hanover and Prussia. A special lower rate applied for letters to cities which were just on the other side of the border, however.



ABOVE: If it ain't broke, don't fix it! The Netherlands' 1864 series retained the same values and colours, but with a revised design and the innovation of perforations

PRICES

You can collect the first issue of the Netherlands on a modest budget.

Fine used examples of the common 5c and 10c stamps will rarely cost you more than £10, and the scarcer 15c can be found from around £20. Domestic covers bearing the 5c and 10c are easily available.

All the stamps are much rarer unused, not to mention mint, with three-figure or even four-figure catalogue values. As with all classic stamps, multiples, clean cancels and unusual frankings are at a premium.

The Dutch eBay site has a special section devoted to the first issue.

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SA4 NELSON MANDELA A historic and scarce mourning cover for Nelson Mandela. 'His was a spirit born free, today his spirit is soaring through the heavens. He is now forever free' - Muhammad Ali 5/12/13. The cover bears a South Africa Mandela stamp with cachet 'In Memorial 1918-2013' also Royal Mail gold definitive postmarked Mount Pleasant 5/12/13. Only 50 covers known to exist Price £14.

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R88A NAZI GERMAN Occupation of World War II various Croatia Bohemia and Moravia. Occupation of Poland General government (Theresienstadt also Lodz Ghetto these may not be genuine) plus various other Germany war period Hitler issues. Mainly genuine unmounted mint/used Price £10

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Khartoum character

Sudan's first air mail series of 1931-37 juxtaposed a heroic past, in the shape of General Gordon, with a brave new world, heralded by faster communication

■ Report by John Winchester

The vastness and the terrain of Sudan created huge challenges for its Anglo-Egyptian administrators. The barren wastelands of the Nubian Desert, the endless central plains and the swamplands near the Ugandan border added up to almost a million square miles. It was only with the advent of the aeroplane that regular mail services became a possibility.

In February 1931, Imperial Airways commenced its East African service, which included flights crossing the whole length of the Sudan, from Wadi Halfa in the north to Juba in the south.

Three denominations of the famous Camel Postman definitive series were overprinted with 'Air Mail' for use on the post it carried, but steps were taken to commission a dedicated airmail series from the London printer De La Rue.

One of the two designs considered was by Colonel W L Atkinson (an army friend of Captain Edward Stanton, designer of the 'Camel Postman' series), depicting a herd of elephants in the shadow of an aeroplane.

The chosen alternative, however, was a desert landscape painted by Lady Rugman, wife of the Financial Secretary to the Sudan Government, to which was added a monoplane and a silhouette of the bronze statue of General Charles Gordon in Khartoum.

The statue depicts a wistful-



ABOVE: Sudan 1931-37 Air Mail 5m black and green, depicting a monoplane flying over the statue of General Gordon

'The design was not an alternative version of the long-running Camel Postman definitive, although it complemented it very well'

looking Gordon, gazing out across the landscape from his stationary camel, perhaps waiting for the relief column that arrived too late to save him at the Siege of Khartoum in 1884-85.

The design was not, as sometimes claimed, an alternative version of the Camel Postman, which depicted a post rider at speed, although it complemented that long-running series very well.

The stamps were recess-printed in sheets of 50, in two colours, on paper with a sideways Multiple SG watermark, perforated 14.

Initially there was a set of eight, three denominated in milliemmes (5m, 10m and 15m) and five in piastres (2p, 3p, 3½p, 4½p and 5p), issued on September 1, 1931.

Values of 3m (for the inland postcard rate) and 2½p were added in January 1933, and an impressive

total of 12 denominations was completed in October 1935 by further issues of 7½p and 10p.

It was also in 1935 that the series became subjected to a battery of disastrous bilingual surcharges, carried out locally in Khartoum. The idea was to use up redundant values and cover for temporary shortages, but the outcome was an embarrassment, with its double and inverted overprints, missing and flattened letters.

When further surcharges were required, in 1938, the work was entrusted to De La Rue and the outcome was much improved.

A final twist came in 1936-37, when the eight denominations that were still in use were reprinted with a perforation of 11½ x 12½, concluding a very collectable series which reflects a fascinating period of colonial development. ■

MARKET VALUES

Both the 1931-33 set of 12 denominations, perforated 14, and the 1936-37 series of eight, perforated 11½ x 12½, are quite affordable at a total of around £50 mint. Some of the surcharges might stretch your budget, depending on how much you specialise.

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Puffin post

The puffin has two natural habitats: the rocky shores of North Atlantic islands and the stamps of Lundy. Why do these local carriage labels hold so much fascination?

■ Report by Lewis Tauber

The puffin, that quaint and almost comical seabird with a brightly striped triangular bill and striking ebony black and pristine white plumage, lives on many of the rocky shorelines of the North Atlantic. Philatelically, however, it is synonymous with one small island: Lundy, in the Bristol Channel.

This is true literally, because the island takes its name from the ancient Norse word meaning puffin. It is also true economically, because Lundy is the only place on Earth whose currency and stamps have been denominated in puffins.

The stamps in question are local issues, of course, carriage labels valid only for paying a handling charge between the island and the British mainland. So what makes them so collectable, and which are the varieties to look for?

Man who would be king

The puffin post was the brainchild of a wealthy businessman from Sussex, Martin Coles Harman, who bought Lundy for £16,000 in 1925 with the grandiose intent of establishing a domain outside the jurisdiction of the British government, of which he would be king.

Harman maintained that since the island, which has an area of less than two square miles, lies outside of the three-mile limit of British territorial waters, it was entitled to be independent. He quickly set about putting this theory to the test.

In 1929 he declared his new



ABOVE: Lundy's postal service kicked off with the issue of ½-puffin pink and 1-puffin blue stamps in November 1929

currency, the puffin, where one puffin was worth one penny, and began to mint coins in ½d and 1d denominations. That landed him in court, where he was prosecuted under the Coinage Act.

He eventually lost a heavily contested legal battle in 1931, and was obliged to withdraw the coins, which became collectors' items. Attention had by now switched to stamps, a field in which local issues were not against the law.

The British Post Office had operated a sub-post office on the island since 1898, but with the tiny local population declining it was not covering its expenses. Harman insisted that it should close, and it

did so on January 1, 1928.

He then set up his own postal service in its place, appointing his land agent F W Gade as Postmaster and making arrangements for boats to carry mail between Lundy and the ports of Barnstaple and Bideford on the north coast of Devon. On November 1, 1929, he issued its first stamps, a ½-puffin pink and 1-puffin blue, printed in litho by Bradbury Wilkinson in the amazing quantities of 500,000 each.

This time, Harman observed British regulations. He was permitted to require that any letter from the Lundy to the mainland, or vice versa, had to bear a puffin stamp as a handling charge,

BELOW RIGHT: Martin Coles Harman's issue of coins, with his portrait on the obverse and a puffin on the reverse, saw him prosecuted



DID YOU KNOW?

Although Lundy is often called Lundy Island, the second word is redundant. The name is derived from the old Norse words 'lunde', which means puffin, and 'ey', which means island.



'The owner of the island's attempt to establish a local coinage landed him in court, but local stamp issues were not against the law'



ABOVE: The earlier stamps illustrated the number of puffins equating to their face value, as on the 6p, 9p and 12p denominations of 1930

LEFT: 1931 cover from Lundy to London on registered postal stationery, with a Lundy 1/2p stamp added to the 4 1/2d imprinted stamp

although he had to pay lip-service to the rule (which was not always followed, and was later relaxed) that it must be affixed to the back of the envelope to distinguish it from the issues of the General Post Office.

Onward delivery to anywhere else in Britain required a British stamp, so the Lundy postmaster had to keep a stock of these too.

Puffin colony

The original plan was to indicate each stamp's face value by means of the number of puffins depicted.

Accordingly, the 1/2-puffin design illustrated the top half of a bird, while the 1-puffin design showed a full-length bird. Additional values issued in 1930 pictured 6, 9 and 12 puffins to match their respective values.

With higher values required, however, this policy quickly began to look untenable. When new engraved definitives were issued in 1939, the 2p blue, 3p black and 4p

AIRMAIL STAMPS

Airmail stamps were issued for Lundy from as early as 1935, when Atlantic Coast Air Services (later Lundy & Atlantic Coast Air Lines) began carrying mail between the island and Heanton aerodrome, near Barnstaple.

At first the service used numbered red, yellow and blue coil stamps which carried only simple inscriptions. Although they were gummed, they were dubbed 'tram tickets' after their primitive appearance.

In 1936 it introduced large-format rouletted stamps illustrated with a map showing Lundy, Barnstaple, Bideford and the aerodrome. Genuinely pictorial designs followed in 1937 and 1939, showing planes flying over Lundy and past its lighthouse.

All of these stamps were denominated in pence and shillings, rather than in puffins.



ABOVE: 1936 cover from Newport to Lundy via Barnstaple, bearing King Edward VIII 1/2d, 1 1/2d and 2 1/2d stamps (on their first day of issue) plus an Atlantic Coast Air Services 1/2d map stamp and a Lundy 1/2-puffin red



ABOVE: 1939 4p brown

ABOVE: 1951 1/2p pink

ABOVE: 1982 15p blue

ABOVE: 1991 25p purple



ABOVE: 1941 'V' and 1943 'IX Anniversary' pictorial overprints on the 3p black definitive, in green and gold respectively

brown reverted to showing only one puffin in a common design.

The puffin has continued to adorn Lundy definitive designs to this day. In 1951 it shared the limelight with other seabirds in the



ABOVE: 1940 Red Cross surcharges on stamps of 12p, 1p, 1/2p and 2p, with normal, misspelt, inverted and doubled overprints respectively

Birds On The Wing series, appearing on the 1/2d value only, but the issue of 1957 reverted to the 1939 Standing Puffin illustration for all values, and decimal issues from 1971 used a common design showing the head of a single bird. Since 1991, another common design has depicted a pair of puffins, one standing and one sitting.

Overprints and surcharges

Most collectable of all the puffin stamps are the various overprints and surcharges which began to appear from 1940.

First came wartime surcharges in aid of the Red Cross in 1940, creating values from 1/2p + 1/2p to 12p + 12p, with inverted, doubled and misspelt overprints existing.

The following year there were 'V' (for victory) and pictorial overprints featuring a fighter plane, flying from right to left, in support of the war effort. These exist in black, red, blue, green and brown to contrast with the colour of the printer stamp.

In 1943 came more aeroplane pictorial overprints, this time with the plane facing right and a 'IX Anniversary' inscription in gold, rather curiously marking the ninth anniversary of airmail services.

There were also overprints, with surcharges, marking the 40th anniversary of the Wright Brothers' first flight, featuring their biplane in a different colour from the rest of the overprint. Again there are



ABOVE: 1971 1p on 9p brown provisional surcharge in black and red. The red overprint was made in error and is scarce

many recorded varieties, including the whole overprint or just the plane inverted.

Finally came 'By Air' overprints on a range of values in 1950, with varieties including narrow or wide spacing between the two lines.

Besides these overprints there were provisional surcharges on stamps from the original definitive series in 1943, 1951, 1969 and 1971, and on the 3p in the engraved series in 1965. Here, collectors should watch out particularly for misplaced overprints by the Gazette Printing Service in Bideford or Atlantic Coast Studios in Barnstaple, which fail to obliterate the old values.

Special issues

Puffin stamps also appeared for in special issues in 1942 and 1953.

The 1942 miniature sheet entitled Tighearna (Gaelic for 'chief' or 'lord'), which comprises two 1/2p, one 2p and one 9p definitives, appears in various forms: imperforate or perforated with 'IX Anniversary' aeroplane overprints in black, or perforated with the overprints in gold. The overprint



LEFT: 1965 1p on 3p blue provisional surcharge, in mint condition with full obliteration of the original value

BELOW: The same stamp used on cover (postmarked in Lundy on the day of issue) with only partial obliteration of the original value



ABOVE: 1942 Tighearna miniature sheets imperforate with no overprint, imperforate with black overprint, and perforated with gold overprint. Note the differing marginal inscriptions



'The original plan was to indicate each stamp's face value by means of the number of puffins depicted. That became untenable'

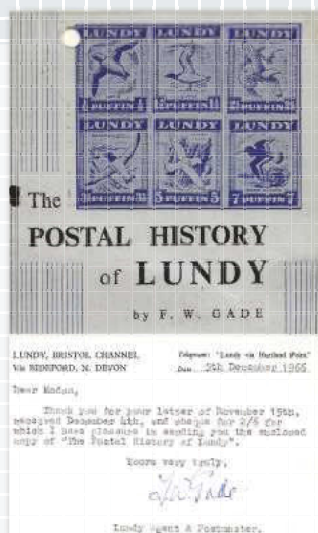
FIND OUT MORE

A must-read for Lundy collectors is *The Postal History of Lundy* by legendary postmaster F W Gade, published around 1966.

The 13-page booklet is a vivid month-by-month account of Martin Coles Harman's establishment of the postal system and Gade's 45 years of running it, recalling people and events in extraordinary detail.

Unfortunately it is long since out of print, and scarce.

RIGHT: F W Gade's book with the signed card accompanying a copy he despatched in 1966



ABOVE: Philatelic first day cover of the 1953 Coronation set of seven, with their two different types of overprint and 'God Save the Queen' special cancellation

also exists misplaced or inverted, and some sheets have 'The Son of the Chief' instead of 'The Chief' inscribed in the lower margin.

For the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953, a set of seven comprising the ½p, 1p, 2p, 4p, 6p, 9p and 12p values were overprinted 'Coronation/2-6-1953', with two of these additionally overprinted 'By Air'.

Black-and-white imperforate miniature sheets were also produced, and sold either mint or with a special cachet. They were never postally used, and stamps cut from them are sometimes mistakenly identified as proofs.

Lundy today

Lundy was donated to the National Trust in 1969, and is now administered on its behalf by the Landmark Trust. Besides holidaymakers and day-trippers, it has a resident population of around 30, including the current Postmaster, Ceri Stafford.

The post office occupies what Stafford calls a 'comfortable' area of 15ft x 10ft (4.5m x 3m), and can fulfil orders for a range of issues, some dating as far back as 1961.

Lundy's back catalogue now extends to more than 360 stamps, excluding errors and varieties. ■

CONTACT

For a list of the Lundy stamps available from the postal service, contact Ceri Stafford, Postmaster General, Lundy Postal Service, Lundy, Devon EX39 2LY.
E-mail: lundypostalservice@lundyisland.co.uk

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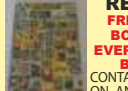
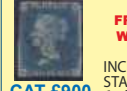
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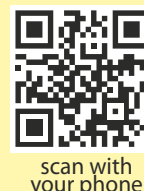
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Christmas Issues and Year Collections 2015



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Azore highs

The Portuguese outpost of Horta had only two definitive series, between 1892 and 1905, but both are collectable and one could boast a famous designer

■ Report by Adrian Keppel

The Azores, a group of volcanic islands situated in the Atlantic Ocean, 850 miles west of Portugal, were settled by the Portuguese in the 15th century. From 1868 the archipelago had its own stamp issues, and these continued in use throughout the islands until the early 1930s.

However, there was a short period, from 1892 to 1905, during which separate stamps were additionally issued for its three administrative districts.

One of these was Horta, which consisted of the islands of Pico, Faial, Flores and Corvo. It was named after its small capital city on the sheltered east coast of Faial, which was becoming an important stopover harbour for ships needing to refuel on transatlantic crossings.

The first of Horta's two definitive sets was introduced in April 1892.

The design by M D Neto, which was used by the other two districts as well, was essentially a reworking of the definitive design issued in the motherland, with an



perforation gauges can be found: 11½, 12½ and 13½.

Given the relatively small population and the fact that general Azores stamps could be used as an alternative, Horta stamps are not easy to find on cover. Look out especially for the officially authorised bisect of the 5r value, which should be postmarked in 1894.

ABOVE LEFT: Horta 1892-93 25r green, portraying King Carlos I of Portugal



ABOVE RIGHT: The 115r brown-red on pink from the 1897-1905 series designed by Louis-Eugène Mouchon

the press, in black or carmine.

When issued on January 1, 1897, the set comprised 13 values ranging from 2½r to 300r. Between 1898 and 1905 a few extra values were added, including a 500r in 1901, and some existing ones were reissued in different colours.

This is a much more straightforward series to collect, with the only real variety being the 115r printed on cream paper rather than the usual pink paper.

In 1905 a royal decree brought an end to separate issues for Horta and the other two districts, and the general Azores stamps were once again the only ones in use.

In 1908 the King departed too, the victim of an assassin's bullet. ■

'Given a relatively small population and the fact that alternative stamps were available, Horta's issues are not easy to find on cover'

almost full-face portrait of Portugal's young King Carlos I.

Printed by letterpress by the Mint in Lisbon, the stamps were denominated in reis. By August 1893 the set comprised 11 values, extending from 5r to 300r.

All the stamps were monochrome, but the four highest values, from 100r upwards, were printed on coloured paper.

There is some scope for specialisation in this series. There is the odd shade variety, and the stamps were printed on either chalk-surfaced or enamel-surfaced paper. Also three different

In 1897, two years after Portugal got a new definitive set, Horta too received its new definitive set, based on the same generic design by the celebrated French artist Louis-Eugène Mouchon.

Once again it had an almost full-face portrait of the King, this time sporting a more pronounced handlebar moustache and in a more elegant frame.

Again printed by the Mint by letterpress, and still with the higher values on coloured paper, this was a proper keyplate design, with the value and district name added in a separate pass through

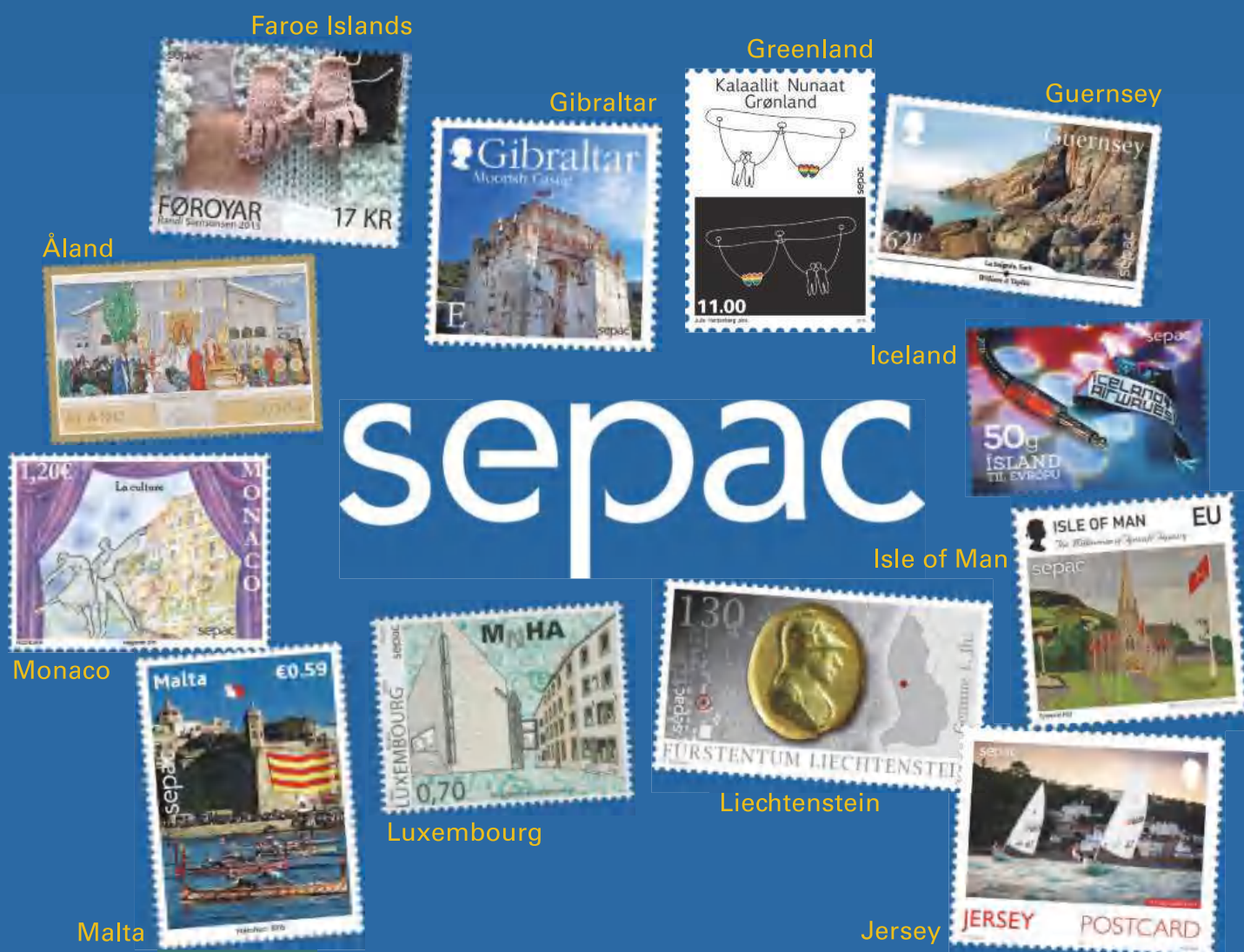
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Q. How to Build a Good Stamp Collection?

A. (Hint) If it's easy – maybe it is TOO easy...

10+ 'TOP TIPS' for Successful Collecting

As many of you know I made the decision to give up collecting when I started full-time in the trade 43 years ago. But here's what I perceive as a mistake I made in terms of re-sale value and in enjoyment. If you are not bothered about V A L U E then you don't need to read further...

What I collected then was easy to source. It was good quality. They were (and still are) lovely stamps but they would be worth less now than when I collected and that's more than 40 years ago. The basic mistake I made then was thinking that 'easy' made for a good stamp collection. Yes, 'easy' made for a lovely collection but I could buy those same stamps – in the SAME quality – from any number of different sources. I still can today ... so if I can buy them easily today – will their value have appreciated? Has demand for what is/was easily available increased? The answer is a firm NO.

TIP As an 'aside'. In particular be wary of 'inertia' selling delivery systems – where you pay on direct debit / standing order system / monthly invoice. These systems usually hide the highest mark-ups in our industry and the lowest recovery value when it comes to sale. You are going to find this story particularly incredible – but about 13 years ago I was once called to clear a house-full of stamps. The owner had died leaving many 100's of unopened New Issue delivery envelopes. I opened one of the oldest envelopes. Inside was a note from the supplier saying sorry they

had not delivered the MINT 1929 PUC £1 ! Ah well, I thought "such is life" – the collection included both mint Wembleys + literally masses more. Imagine my surprise when the next envelope opened included a MINT PUC £1 with a note saying "we found one for you" (and then the realisation that this High Value stamp had lain inside the same envelope for so long that it had a large brown 'rust-spot' on the reverse!

Returning to subject: So, what forms the basis of a **GOOD** stamp collection if I want 'resale VALUE'?

TIP 1). The answer is, as usual, a combination of factors ... BUT, if you think in terms of desirability and then dial in quality ... this makes for a collection that others will wish to purchase. Of course collecting means that some of the stamps you source will be easily available ... but if ALL the stamps you collect are easily available and on average they cost very little each ... then you may have 1,000's of different stamps whose value lies in the actual handling cost of the supplier – not in their intrinsic value. So when it comes to selling this may result in little / no interest. Of course it goes without saying **TIP** – Always collect the Best quality that you can afford.

Where Do I Source Good Stamps ?

2). Sadly, in some senses, the Philatelic World has changed. Gone are the days when in 1980 100,000 different Collectors descended upon the 1980 International Stamp Exhibition at Earls Court. I know because I was there. An International Stamp Show in the 'west' today may be lucky to see 10,000 visitors. A stamp fair today in a local village / town may be lucky to see 30 visitors let alone 20 actual buyers ... when you consider that 15 dealers may have travelled to such a venue – is it any surprise that many Collectors may see the same stamps they saw at that same venue a month before?

3). No, the answer is that Stamp Collecting is alive and well – stamp shops are almost non-existent, fortunately there's still a few left – but 'underground' – on-line, by mail-order and at auction things are still 'humming' depending upon whom you are deal-

ing with. So, let's look at potentially / probably the biggest sourcing area of the hobby apart from retail which is fairly self-explanatory ... and that is bidding / buying at Stamp Auction.

4). **Nowadays there are three types of stamp auction:** – Pure Internet / Public - (including on-line bidding) / Postal (Mail-Bid Sales – including on-line). Each has its strengths and weaknesses. Let's start with Pure Internet live auctions, I won't mention names but in some senses these are today's equivalent of the 'Wild West'. As fast as these internet Giants catch up with the some of the crooks using them, the crooks move a step ahead ... many internet bidders using them are 'hooked'.

TIP 4a). They have become 'live auction obsessed' unwilling / not capable of looking elsewhere – thinking that bidding / buying this way guarantees value which

Plate 2



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it does not. What happens when they come to sell? Perhaps then they realise that only some of what they may have glistening is 'gold'. Indiscriminate internet auction bidders buying 1,000's of low price items ... may have spent large sums IN TOTAL ... but may not have created desirable collections. The cost of a low priced item is the labour and cost of selling it. Nothing changes when that item comes to being re-sold.

TIP 5). Now let's look at Public Auction. Yes – you will be hard pressed to find a Public Stamp Auction that does not accept on-line / live internet bidding. As with 'Pure Internet' stamp sales – and perhaps even more so – 'Caveat Emptor' (buyer beware becomes even more the mantra. Generally individual lots may have higher average values so that lots offered are often higher value collections, accumulations or higher value sets / singles / rarities. Such auctions are the 'haunts' of dealers and astute buyers ... but risk is attached, plus the absence of guarantees and the pernicious unpleasant buyer's premium + other charges which at certain auctions can convert a £1000 stamp purchase into as much as an invoice for £1,300.

TIP 5a). There are bargains to be had – but it is very much a 'big boys' playing field. Some of these auctions deliberately under-estimate lots that they know are worth far more ... so that they can then have the dubious pleasure of publicising that a £1,000 estimated lot realised £10,000, when perhaps their knowledge suggested it should have been estimated at upwards of £5,000 in the first place ... (hence – how wonderful they are).

TIP 5b). For certain types of lots such as actual Collections offered fairly intact the absence of guarantee combined with unreliable estimate means that for those who do not physically view a Public Stamp Auction and bid 'blind' – this is a dangerous place to be. Of course this may work to the advantage of an astute bidder who is actually present to physically view lots in the auction room. Historically that person was usually a Dealer. Perhaps less so these days.

TIP 6). Finally we come to look at Postal Auctions/ Mail-Bid Sales. First I must profess that I have an interest in a Mail-Bid / Postal Auction Sale. My company U P A conducts the largest postal auctions in the U K ... What should the Collector or Dealer be looking for here?

TIP 6a). Most good Postal Auctions including U P A offer Collectors a **No Quibble Refund Guarantee (NQRG)** ... and by 'No Quibble' I mean **NO QUIBBLE**.

Look for this – it is crucial. You are probably not actually seeing the stamps before bidding ... so no guarantee would mean unacceptable risk.

TIP 6b). Unlike Public Auctions most Postal Auctions 'break' many collections into smaller 'collector-sized' units so that you may find what you seek without having to purchase what you do not need - it follows that most of the stamps in most postal auctions may be owned by the company presenting the auction. It is not viable to sell low priced lots on a commission basis. Ask yourself why you may be asked to pay a buyer's premium? Is it actually a Vendor's lot or owned by 'The House'?

TIP 6c). The Buyer's Premium was introduced to 'split' cost between buyer and seller so that a 'low' seller's commission looks attractive (if you forget about the premium the buyer is paying for the seller's stamps). Be aware of this or deal with auctions not charging a buyer's premium. You are in control. You can bid anywhere that you find what you seek – but it is good to be aware and informed.

TIP 6d). Prices Realised are IMPORTANT. For some unknown reason – even some larger Postal / Mail-Bid Auctions still do not produce lists of what their lots sold for after the auction. Look for auctions providing this feature – it provides reassurance combined with a trackable 'snapshot' of current market values **PLUS** what is selling and what is not selling. You can learn such a lot from 'Prices Realised' – I study them each day.

TIP 7). Credit Cards. 75% of some auction sales are settled by credit / debit card. The Biggest in the land has no need to charge you for use of them ... Sheer volume of business accesses lowest rates. Why are you paying a premium to use your card? Is the supplier making a profit upon the extra % you are charged to use your card?

TIP 8). Look for unique 'Collector friendly' benefits that turn the disadvantage of lots not being sold to your advantage. U P A, for example, has for the past 15 years offered their Unique Reducing Estimate System (**URES**) whereby lots are increasingly reduced in estimate price till sold – some have reached one penny and then sold. Approaching one million lots have been offered through this system.

TIP 9). Cost of Delivery is one of the most annoying hidden costs that collectors absolutely abhor. Look for transparency in this area.

TIP 10). Beware the Seller / Auction NOT including Insurance when sending your winnings.

And Finally We come to choice ... and mind-set ?

TIP Without Choice we have nothing. So it follows that you need substantial choice to form a good, even great, stamp collection. You cannot do business when each time you 'visit' all you see is what you have seen before – stagnating stocks offered at prices that ensure continued stagnation. If choice is limited you'll never find philatelic items you need – or even that you were unaware of their existence. That's the joy of collecting. The thrill of the unexpected, the chance find. You need dealers that want to help and auctions that wish to serve – so, in stamps 'attitude is all'.

So when you're searching for a stamp auction compare it against your list above of what to look for and if and when you're offered a 'No Risk Free Trial' ... please consider – take it Now ♦



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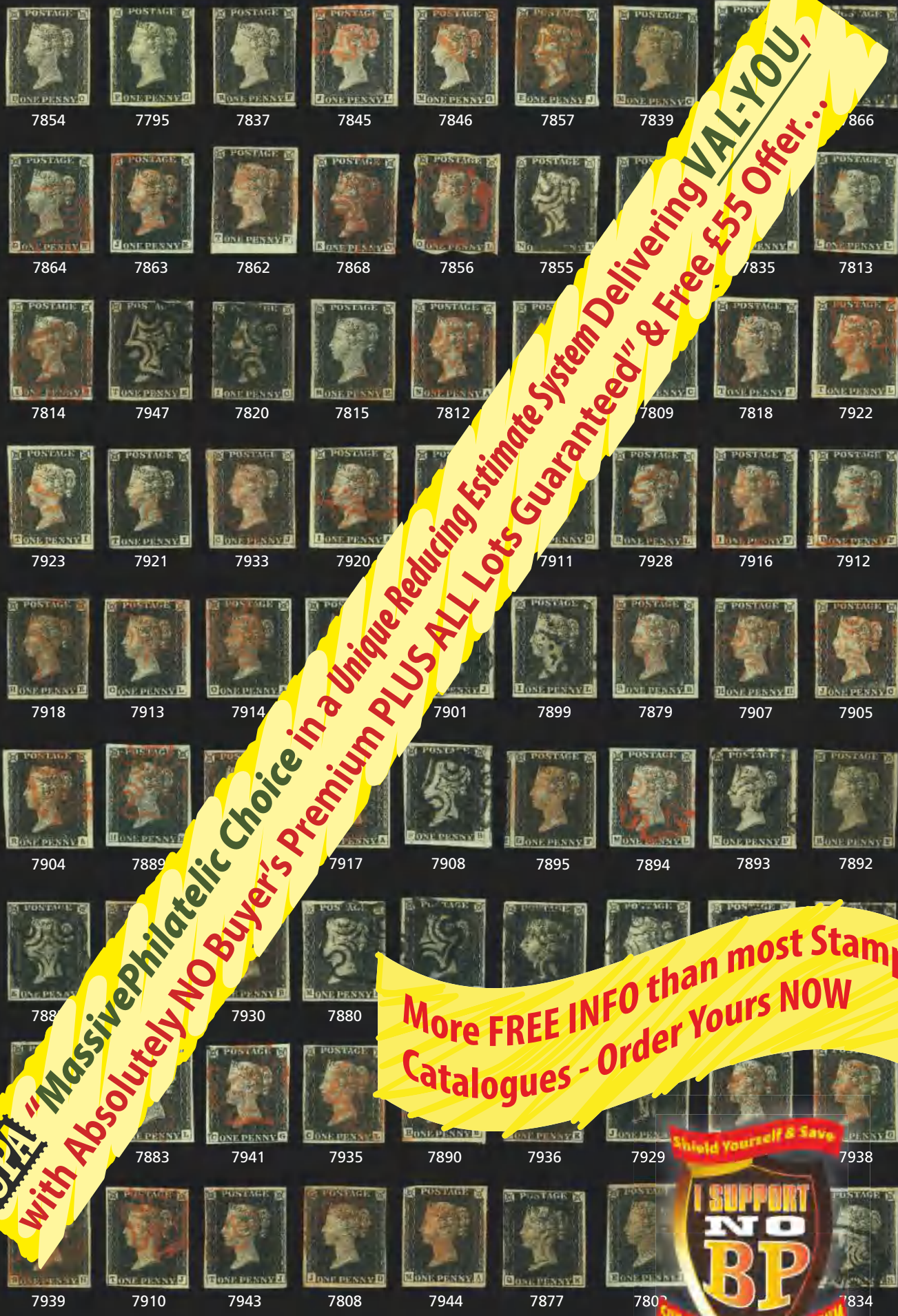


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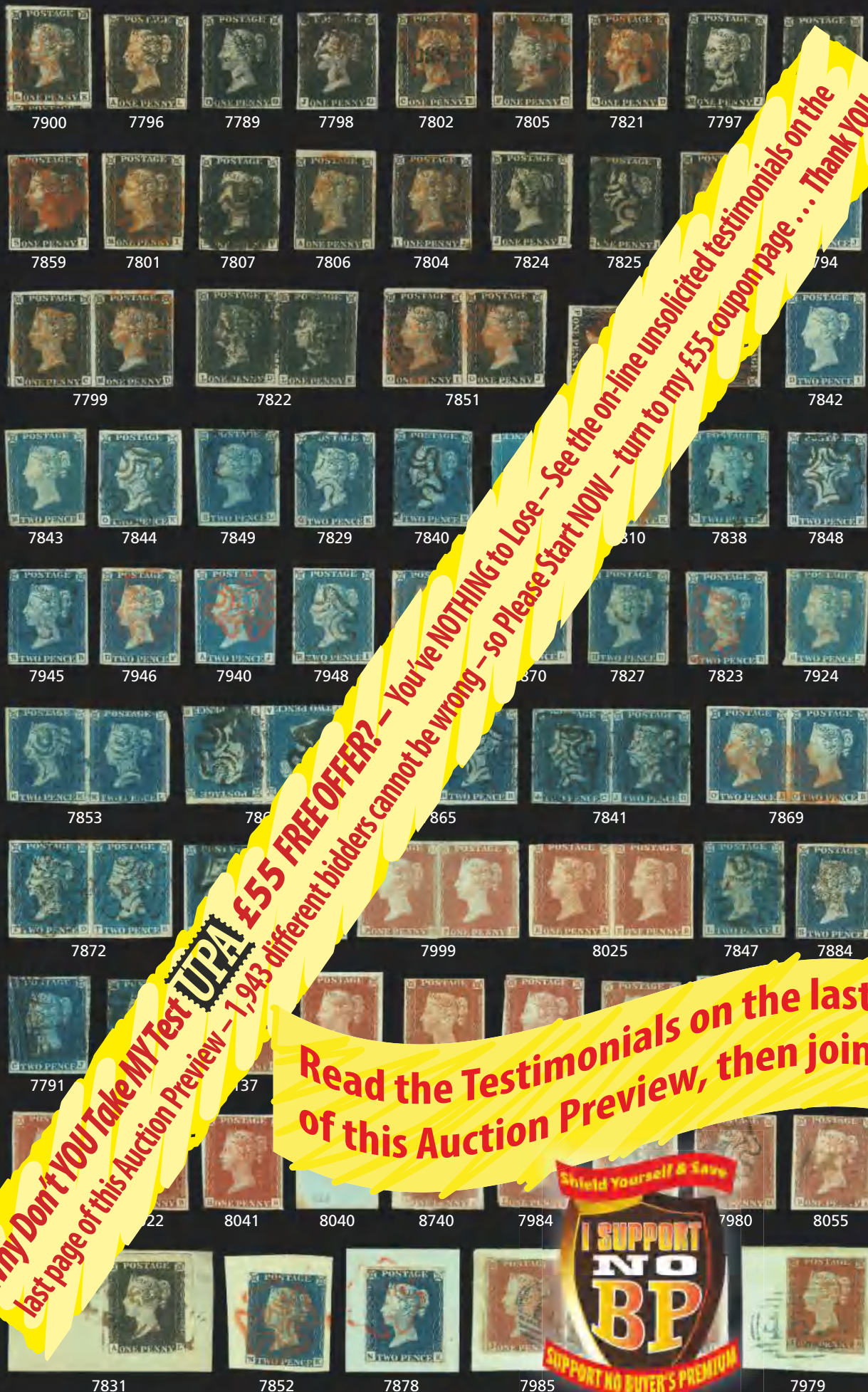


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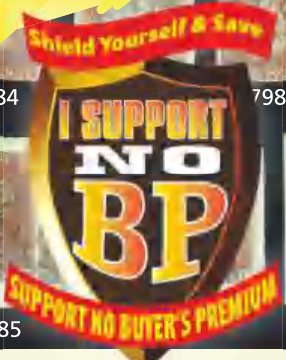
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Fossil record

Paleontology involves studying how prehistoric life evolved on planet Earth. But how has paleontology itself evolved as a philatelic theme?

■ Report by Michael Kogan

Paleontology (alternatively spelt palaeontology) is the scientific study of prehistoric life through geology and biology.

It is concerned with the analysis of ancient plant and animal fossils preserved in rocks, and the study of their origins, evolution and environment, in the eons before homo sapiens came to dominate the Earth.

It therefore looks back to the very start of life on our planet, somewhere between 3,000 and 4,000 million years ago.

The fossilised remains of prehistoric animals, especially large ones such as dinosaurs, have long stirred the imagination, but vegetable matter and microscopic organisms equally help to tell the story of the evolution of life.

A thematic collection of philatelic material relating to paleontology is therefore wide-ranging and endlessly fascinating. What were the major milestones in 'paleophilately'?

RIGHT: One of the greatest treasures of paleontology is the fossil of *Archaeopteryx lithographica*, the bird-like dinosaur which lived about 150 million years ago, held by the Museum Für Naturkunde in Berlin

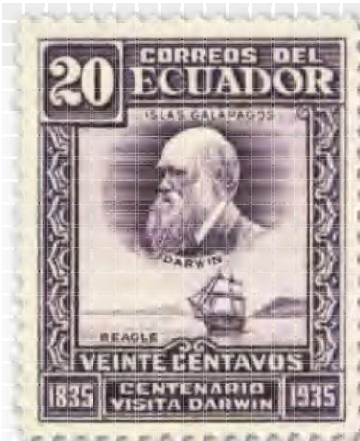


INSPIRATIONS

People have been finding fossils since ancient times, but paleontology as a science was not established until the middle of the 19th century, and was reliant on the input of scientists from many other disciplines. Foremost among these were Carl Linnaeus and Charles Darwin.

Linnaeus (1707-78), a Swedish botanist, devised the system of taxonomy, with which all biologists, botanists and paleontologists classify animal and plant species. The first stamps commemorating him were issued by Sweden in 1939.

Darwin (1809-82), a British naturalist, laid the groundwork for paleontology with his theory of evolution, *On The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*, which was published in 1859. The first of



many stamps honouring him were issued by Ecuador in 1936, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of his famous visit to the Galapagos Islands on HMS Beagle.

First postmarks featuring dinosaurs, 1935-39

The first dinosaur-themed postmarks appeared in the USA in the 1930s, thanks to promotional meter frankings used by the Sinclair Oil Company.

The firm had a sauropod dinosaur as part of its logo to symbolise the length of time its petroleum (which originates from fossilised organic material) had been forming in the ground.

In 1935 and 1938, Sinclair also produced collectable stamp-like labels depicting dinosaurs, along with a dedicated album, to attract customers to its filling stations.



First covers featuring dinosaurs, 1946

The first depiction of dinosaurs on pictorial first day covers was in the United States in August 1946.

When a stamp was issued to celebrate the centenary of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC (which includes a large Department of Paleobiology), souvenir covers produced by the Phoenix-Connecticut insurance group illustrated a sauropod, most likely a diplodocus.

For many years the largest dinosaur known, diplodocus lived in North America at the end of the Jurassic period, between about 154 and 152 million years ago.

Covers for the issue also exist showing other dinosaur species, such as a stegosaurus.



First stamps honouring paleontologists, 1947-52

The first stamps portraying a paleontologist were issued by the USSR in January 1947.

Values of 30k and 50k honoured Alexander Karpinsky (1847-1936), who was best known as a geologist but was also a paleontologist. He made some important paleontological discoveries while working in the Ural Mountains.

The first stamp issued in honour of a dedicated paleontologist was a 40k from the same country in 1952 showing Vladimir Kovalevsky (1842-83), most famous for his thesis on the evolution of the horse.



First stamp showing an academy of paleontology, 1949

The first stamp celebrating and illustrating an academy of paleontology was issued by Monaco in March 1949.

In a set of 12 featuring various areas of interest of Prince Albert I, one stamp showed the Institute for Human Paleontology in Paris, which he founded in 1914 and which was responsible for a number of important archaeological digs.

Other designs in the set illustrate the prehistoric painting of an auroch from the Lascaux caves in France, and the Anthropological Museum in Monaco.



First stamp showing prehistoric animals, 1951

Prehistoric animals appeared on stamps for the first time in January 1951, when India marked the centenary of the Indian Geological Survey with a stamp showing *Stegodon ganesa*, an extinct relative of the elephant.

Stegodons are believed to have evolved nearly 15 million years ago and become extinct about 30,000-40,000 years ago. They appear to be a transitional species between true mastodons on the one hand and true elephants on the other.

They were depicted on the stamps because fossil tusks discovered in 1928 contributed to fixing the age of important geological rock formations in the Kashmir Himalayas.

First stamp showing prehistoric bones, 1955

The bones of a prehistoric animal appeared for the first time on a stamp from the USA in January 1955.

Marking the 150th anniversary of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, the 3c design has a self-portrait by the artist and a naturalist Charles Peale (1741-1827).

Many of the museum's exhibits were collected by Peale, and his painting includes the bone of a mastodon, an extinct relative of the elephant, alluding to one of his greatest achievements: the rebuilding of a mastodon skeleton.



First stamp of a fossil, 1952

The first stamp showing a fossil was issued by Algeria in August 1952, in a set of two marking the 19th International Geological Congress. The 15f value depicted an ammonite fossil, *Berbericeras sikikensis*.

Ammonites, a group of marine molluscs which became extinct at the same time as the dinosaurs, are excellent 'index fossils', as it is often possible to link the layer of rock in which they are found to specific geological time periods.



First stamp showing a dinosaur, 1958

Dinosaurs were the dominant land animals for 135 million years, and their fossils were first identified as long ago as the early 19th century, yet it was not until 1958 that one was first illustrated on a stamp.

In April 1958, China issued a set of three devoted to Chinese Paleontology, and the image on the 8f value was of *Lufengosaurus huenei*, a herbivorous prosauropod of the early Jurassic period whose remains had been discovered at Lufeng and had become the first complete dinosaur skeleton to be put on display in China.

The other stamps in the set show a trilobite and a giant deer, and the first day cover is very rare, as it was produced in a limited edition of 1,000.



First stamp showing a plant fossil, 1961

From 1958 to 1961, Switzerland's Pro Patria series of semi-postal stamps featured fossils and minerals from museum collections, and the 1961 set was the world's first to show a plant fossil.

The fern illustrated appears to be from the *Asterotheca* genus, dating from 250 million years ago. One of the first plants on Earth, it thrived in humid and swampy regions.

The branch of paleontology dealing with plant remains is paleobotany, crucial in the study of climate.



First dinosaurs pictorial set, 1965

The first pictorial set of stamps devoted to prehistoric animals was issued in March 1965 by Poland, showing 10 dinosaurs including tyrannosaurus, stegosaurus, brontosaurus (now reclassified as apatosaurus), brachiosaurus and styracosaurus.

The designs were based on colourful illustrations by Zdenek Burian (1905-81), the Czech artist who played a central role in the development of palaeontological reconstructions during a remarkable career spanning five decades, and is regarded by many as the most influential paleo-artist of modern times.



First stamp showing a hominid fossil, 1965

The first stamp illustrating the fossil remains of an extinct ancestor of humans came, appropriately, from Tanzania, the 'cradle of mankind', in December 1965.

In a set of 14 definitives showing animals, landscapes and episodes in the development of the country, a 1.30s value showed the skull of zinjanthropus (later renamed paranthropus) and its place of excavation in the Olduvai Gorge.

Paranthropus lived between 2.3 and 1.2 million years ago, and may have been the first hominid to use stone tools.

The skull was discovered in 1959 by the British paleoanthropologist Mary Leakey, one of the world's most famous fossil-hunters, who spent much of her career working at Olduvai with her husband Louis.

She was honoured with a British stamp in 2013.



First stamps on human evolution, 1967

The first set of stamps illustrating human evolution were issued by Cuba in March 1967. Seven designs each showed a skull fragment of a major stage in human development, and an artist's impression of the species.

Two stamps featured *homo habilis*, which lived 2.8 to 1.5 million years ago, and *australopithecus*, which became extinct about two million years ago, remains of both of which were found in eastern Africa.

Two more depicted *pithecanthropus* and *sinanthropus*, both belonging to the *Homo erectus* group, which lived between 1.9 million and 700,000 million years ago and were unearthed in Java and China respectively.

The fifth stamp showed Neanderthal man, which became extinct as recently as 40,000 years ago, and whose remains have been found in Europe, Asia and North Africa. Neanderthal's DNA differs by just 0.12% from *Homo sapiens*, and it may even have had a larger brain.

Two further stamps illustrated *Homo sapiens* in the shape of Cro-Magnon man, the early modern humans who lived in Europe in the Upper Paleolithic period, from 500,000 to 10,000 years ago.



First stamps showing fossilised footprints, 1970

In January 1970, Lesotho issued a set of five stamps depicting the fossilised footprints of prehistoric animals.

Lesotho has some of the largest concentrations of dinosaur footprints in the world, the earliest finds having been made by 19th-century missionaries. Those illustrated here were found at Moyeni.

There are many things paleontologists can learn from such tracks, including the size of an animal, whether it walked on two or four legs, the speed at which it could move and whether it travelled in herds or alone.



First stamp booklets featuring fossils, 1992

Thailand was the first country to issue paleontology stamps in booklets, in January 1992.

The booklets contained five 2b stamps sharing the same design, showing the excavation of dinosaur fossils and their skeletons, which were part of a set of four marking the centenary of the Department of Mineral Resources.

Eight months later, Sweden issued a booklet of eight stamps in four different designs illustrating prehistoric animals.



First postal stationery featuring fossils, 1970

Fossils appeared for the first time on postal stationery when Poland issued a postal card in June 1970 to mark the 50th anniversary of its Geological Institute.

The imprinted stamp showed the fossil of an extinct ammonite, and the Institute's building was also depicted on the card. A special postmark illustrated a trilobite, a marine arthropod which lived around 450 million years ago.



First miniature sheet of a prehistoric animal, 1971

Along with a set of eight stamps featuring prehistoric animals, mostly dinosaurs, Manama issued the first miniature sheet on the theme in 1971.

The stamp itself depicted a woolly mammoth, *Elephas primigenius*, a species which lived from 2.5 million years ago to 11,700 years ago, while several dinosaur species were illustrated by line-drawings in the border.

This issue has only appendix status in Stanley Gibbons catalogues.



FIND OUT MORE

The author, Michael Kogan, has a website which is entirely devoted to the philatelic theme of paleontology. Visit www.paleophilatelie.eu



First self-adhesives showing dinosaurs, 1993

The first self-adhesive stamps illustrating prehistoric animals were issued by Australia in October 1993, in coils and booklets.

They showed the flying reptile ornithomischus and the small herbivore leaellynasaura, both on 45c values.

These stamps were part of a mini-omnibus issue which also included simultaneous issues from Canada and New Zealand.



First 3D stamps showing dinosaurs, 2009

The first stamps with three-dimensional images of dinosaurs and fossils came from South Africa in 2009, in an issue comprising miniature sheets of four and six stamps.

Each set-tenant pair depicts the skeleton of a certain species of dinosaur alongside an artist's impression of how the creature may have looked.

The three-dimensional effect was created by using anaglyphs: stereo images printed in two colours, which require special viewing glasses.



First lenticular stamp showing a dinosaur, 2012

In June 2012, Turkey's World Environment Day issue included a plastic stamp, available only in a special souvenir booklet but valid for postage, with a lenticular image of a tyrannosaurus. When you turn the stamp slightly, the animal appears to move.

Tyrannosaurus rex, one of the dinosaur species which has been most represented in philately, was a fearsome carnivore at the top of the food chain at the time of the extinction event around 65 million years ago.



First vending machine labels of dinosaurs, 1998

The first vending machine labels depicting dinosaurs were issued in April 1998, by Singapore.

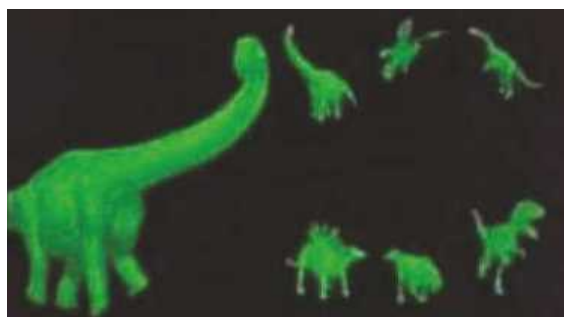
Sheets of 15 self-adhesive labels, in three different designs, depicted pentaceratops, apatosaurus and albertosaurus. Non-denominated, they were valid only for local letters weighing up to 20g.

They were sold exclusively via the ATM terminals of the Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation, and were therefore designed with exactly the same dimensions (156mm x 74mm) as a \$50 note.



First luminous stamps of dinosaurs, 2014

Hong Kong issued set of six stamps in February 2014, which were printed with a luminous effect. When you turn the lights off, the dinosaurs glow in the dark!





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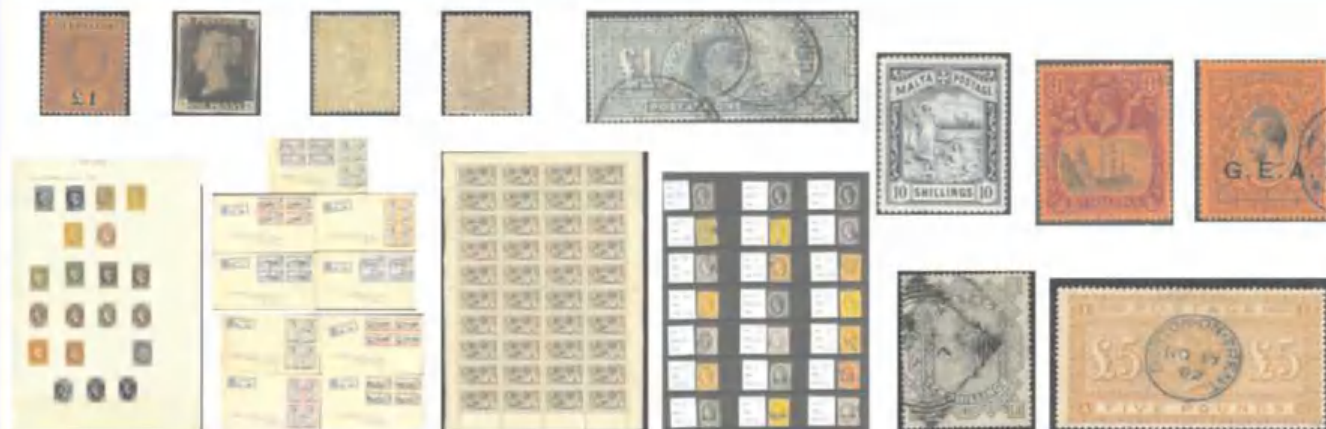
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Q. How to Build a Good Stamp Collection?

A. (Hint) If it's easy – maybe it is TOO easy...

10+ 'TOP TIPS' for Successful Collecting

As many of you know I made the decision to give up collecting when I started full-time in the trade 43 years ago. But here's what I perceive as a mistake I made in terms of re-sale value and in enjoyment. If you are not bothered about V A L U E then you don't need to read further...

What I collected then was easy to source. It was good quality. They were (and still are) lovely stamps but they would be worth less now than when I collected and that's more than 40 years ago. The basic mistake I made then was thinking that 'easy' made for a good stamp collection. Yes, 'easy' made for a lovely collection but I could buy those same stamps – in the SAME quality – from any number of different sources. I still can today ... so if I can buy them easily today – will their value have appreciated? Has demand for what is/was easily available increased? The answer is a firm **NO**.

TIP As an 'aside'. In particular be wary of 'inertia' selling delivery systems – where you pay on direct debit / standing order system / monthly invoice. These systems usually hide the highest mark-ups in our industry and the lowest recovery value when it comes to sale. You are going to find this story particularly incredible – but about 13 years ago I was once called to clear a house-full of stamps. The owner had died leaving many 100's of unopened New Issue delivery envelopes. I opened one of the oldest envelopes. Inside was a note from the supplier saying sorry they

had not delivered the MINT 1929 PUC £1 ! Ah well, I thought "such is life" – the collection included both mint Wembleys + literally masses more. Imagine my surprise when the next envelope opened included a MINT PUC £1 with a note saying "we found one for you" (and then the realisation that this High Value stamp had lain inside the same envelope for so long that it had a large brown 'rust-spot' on the reverse!

Returning to subject: So, what forms the basis of a **GOOD** stamp collection if I want '**resale VALUE**'?

TIP 1). The answer is, as usual, a combination of factors ... BUT, if you think in terms of desirability and then dial in quality ... this makes for a collection that others will wish to purchase. Of course collecting means that some of the stamps you source will be easily available ... but if ALL the stamps you collect are easily available and on average they cost very little each ... then you may have 1,000's of different stamps whose value lies in the actual handling cost of the supplier – not in their intrinsic value. So when it comes to selling this may result in little / no interest. Of course it goes without saying **TIP** – Always collect the Best quality that you can afford.

Where Do I Source Good Stamps ?

2). Sadly, in some senses, the Philatelic World has changed. Gone are the days when in 1980 100,000 different Collectors descended upon the 1980 International Stamp Exhibition at Earls Court. I know because I was there. An International Stamp Show in the 'west' today may be lucky to see 10,000 visitors. A stamp fair today in a local village / town may be lucky to see 30 visitors let alone 20 actual buyers ... when you consider that 15 dealers may have travelled to such a venue – is it any surprise that many Collectors may see the same stamps they saw at that same venue a month before?

3). No, the answer is that Stamp Collecting is alive and well – stamps shops are all but defunct – but 'underground' – on-line, by mail-order and at auction things are still 'humming' depending upon whom you are dealing with. So, let's look at potentially / proba-

bly the biggest sourcing area of the hobby apart from retail which is fairly self-explanatory ... and that is bidding / buying at Stamp Auction.

4). **Nowadays there are three types of stamp auction:** – Pure Internet / Public - (including on-line bidding) / Postal (Mail-Bid Sales – including on-line). Each has its strengths and weaknesses. Let's start with Pure Internet live auctions, I won't mention names but in some senses these are today's equivalent of the 'Wild West'. As fast as these internet Giants catch up with the some of the crooks using them, the crooks move a step ahead ... many internet bidders using them are 'hooked'.

TIP 4a). They have become 'live auction obsessed' unwilling / not capable of looking elsewhere – thinking that bidding / buying this way guarantees value which it does not. What happens when they come to sell?

Please turn to page 115 

Making music

Music is an important cultural theme, if not an overtly visual one. In the first of a new series, we review how it has been represented on Great Britain's stamps

■ Report by Jeff Dugdale

The part that music plays in our lives is so richly reflected in British stamps that a substantial presentation could be made of the theme.

There are many stamps, in which a musical instrument can be identified, even where music is not the main subject. For example a tuba and sousaphone appear on one of the 1965 Salvation Army stamps, bagpipes and a harp on two of 1976 British Cultural Traditions set, drums on two of the 1982 Youth Organisations issue and a violin on a 1984 British Council design. The latter also illustrates sheet music, for *The Midsummer Marriage* by Sir Michael Tippett.

Various Christmas issues also show angels playing instruments and people singing carols, while one stamp in the 1980 London Landmarks set illustrated the Royal Opera House in London.

However, the celebration of specific individuals has been largely piecemeal. The first composer to be honoured was Ralph Vaughan Williams, portrayed on one stamp in the 1972 Anniversaries set; the only rock band to be depicted in performance was Queen, courtesy of a stamp in the Entertainers' Tale set of 1999; and the first opera singer hailed on



ABOVE: 2007 *The Beatles 1st class*, reproducing the cover of the classic album *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*

a stamp was Kathleen Ferrier, as recently as 2012.

Perhaps surprisingly, only a handful of issues have been devoted entirely to music.

The first was the 1980 British Conductors issue, commemorating Sir Henry Wood, the founder of the annual BBC Proms concert series in 1895, Sir Thomas Beecham, the founder of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in 1946, Sir Malcolm Sargent, chief conductor of The Proms for almost 20 years from 1948, and Sir John Barbirolli, the musical director of Manchester's Hallé Orchestra from 1943-70.

In 1985 the Europa theme of European Music Year was celebrated with illustrations representing the most famous works of four British composers:

George Frideric Handel's *Water Music*, Gustav Holst's *Planets Suite*, Frederick Delius' *The First Cuckoo* and Edward Elgar's *Sea Pictures*.

Delius himself would later be portrayed in the 2012 Britons of Distinction set, and other composers to be honoured in a similar way in recent years have been Henry Purcell in 2009 and Benjamin Britten in 2013.

In 2006, the Europa theme of Integration encouraged Royal Mail to bring together a diverse range of musical instruments from different cultures in a five-stamp set entitled *Sounds of Britain*.

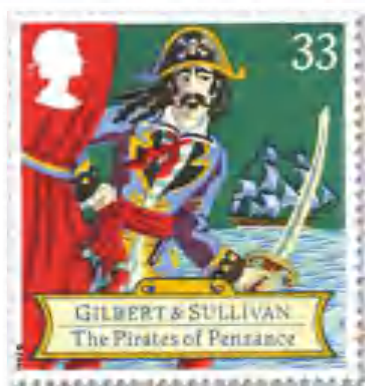
It showed a sitar player, a maraca player, a reggae bass guitarist and African drummer, a fiddler and harpist, and a saxophone player and blues guitarist.



LEFT: 1980 *British Conductors 12p*, portraying Sir Henry Wood



ABOVE: 1985 European Music Year 17p, celebrating George Frideric Handel's *Water Music*, which was first performed in 1717



ABOVE: 1992 Gilbert & Sullivan 33p, illustrating a performance of *The Pirates of Penzance*



ABOVE: 2006 Sounds of Britain 42p, showing a reggae bass guitarist and African drummer

Only two teams of British composers have been given fulsome treatment by Royal Mail, and both are national institutions with international appeal: Gilbert & Sullivan and The Beatles.

The comic operas created jointly by the librettist William Gilbert and the composer Arthur Sullivan were honoured in a set of five stamps in 1992, on the 150th anniversary of Sullivan's birth.

Appropriately jaunty and colourful designs celebrated some of the most popular of the 13 works in their canon, *The Yeomen of the Guard*, *The Gondoliers*, *The Mikado*, *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Iolanthe*, all of which have rarely been out of production either professionally or by amateur aficionados since late Victorian times.

By 2007 The Beatles, the most

popular pop band ever, merited a total of 10 stamps, of which the six self-adhesive counter sheet designs demanded most attention, with their irregular shapes suggesting a ragged pile of vinyl records.

The album covers shown on the tops of the piles were *With The Beatles*, *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, *Help!*, *Abbey Road*, *Revolver* and *Let It Be*, in all cases portraying the band members George Harrison, John Lennon, Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr.

The accompanying miniature sheet focused on Beatles memorabilia, including a guitar and a vinyl record.

Free-form self-adhesive stamps were again used for the Classic Album Covers set in 2010, with the disc appearing to stick out of the

CHECKLIST

Date	Issue	Stamps
1965	Salvation Army	2
1972	Anniversaries	1
1976	British Cultural Traditions	2
1978	Christmas	2
1980	London Landmarks	1
1980	British Conductors	4
1981	Folklore	1
1982	Youth Organisations	2
1984	British Council	1
1985	European Music Year	4
1988	Edward Lear	1
1990	Christmas	1
1992	Gilbert & Sullivan	5
1998	Christmas	2
1999	The Entertainers' Tale	1
2000	Spirit & Faith	1
2000	Sound & Vision	1
2005	Trooping the Colour	1
2006	Sounds of Britain	5
2007	The Beatles	10
2007	Christmas	7
2009	Eminent Britons	1
2010	Classic Album Covers	10
2011	Musicals	8
2012	Eminent Britons	2
2013	Great Britons	1
2014	GPO Film Unit	1

'British stamp issues devoted to music encompass composers, conductors, instruments, live performance and recording'

sleeve as if inviting you to select it for your turntable.

The issue featured 10 famous records made by British recording artists including David Bowie, Pink Floyd and the Rolling Stones, but with the emphasis on the design of the sleeve rather than the music.

Also based on existing artwork was the Musicals set of 2011, with its eight stamps reproducing promotional posters from successful stage musicals. These included *Oliver*, *Billy Elliot* and *The Rocky Horror Show*, but curiously none of Andrew Lloyd Webber's portfolio, due to unexplained copyright difficulties. ■



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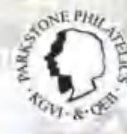


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Stamps 35p to 68p	60%	Sorted by value
Stamps 69p to 99p	65%	Sorted by value
£1, £1.10, £1.19, £1.30, £1.35, £1.41	70%	Sorted by value
£1.12, £1.28, £1.33, £1.47 & £1.52	65%	Sorted by value
Stamps £1.50 to £2.99	70%	Sorted by value
Stamps £3.00 to £10.00	78%	Sorted by value
U/M Decimal Collections	60%	from 1971 to 2015
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UK & WORLDWIDE EXHIBITION DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JANUARY 22-24

USA

Sandical

Venue: Al-Bahr Shrine Temple, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road, San Diego, California 92111.

Contact: Linda Mabin

Tel: +1 619 582 9311

mabin7@cox.net

www.sandical.org

JANUARY 29-31

USA

Southeastern Stamp Expo

Venue: Hilton Hotel Atlanta Northeast, 5993 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross, Georgia 30092.

Contact: Scott Mark
sestampexpo@gmail.com
www.sefsc.org

FEBRUARY 17-20

UK

Spring Stampex

Venue: Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0QH.

Contact: Graham Childs, PO Box 981, Southsea, Hampshire PO1 9PG
Tel: 023 9283 2289
info@philatelic-traders-society.co.uk

FEBRUARY 26-28

USA

Texpex 2016

Venue: Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center, 1800 Highway 26E, Grapevine, Texas 76051.

Contact: Vince King
vking@entechdesign.com
www.texasphilatelic.org/txpex

MARCH 18-20

AUSTRALIA

Canberra Stampshow 2016

Venue: Hellenic Club of Canberra, Matilda Street, Woden, Canberra.

Contact: Exhibition Secretary,
Canberra Stampshow 2016, GPO Box 1840, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia
canberrastampshow2016@gmail.com
www.canberrastamps.org

APRIL 30-MAY 1

CANADA

Orapex

Venue: RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.
www.orapex.ca

MAY 12-14

GERMANY

Essen International Stamp Fair

Venue: Messehaus Ost, Essen

Exhibition Centre, Norbertstrasse 2, 45131 Essen.

Contact: Jan Billion, Messeagentur,
Postfach 108 254, 40863 Ratingen,
Germany
Tel: +49 2102 50675
info@briefmarkenmesse-essen.de

MAY 28-JUNE 4

USA

New York 2016 World Stamp Show

Venue: Jacob Javits Convention Center, 655 West 34th Street, New York City, New York 10001.

Contact: Thomas M Fortunato
Tel: +1 585 225 6822
info@ny2016.org
www.ny2016.org

JUNE 17-18

USA

Okpex

Venue: Reed Conference Center, 5800 Will Rogers Road, Midwest City, Oklahoma 73110.

Contact: Joe Crosby
Tel: +1 405 749 0930
joecrosby@cox.net
www.okcs.org

JULY 15-17

USA

Minnesota Stamp Expo

Venue: Crystal Community Center, 4800 Douglas Drive North, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55429.

Contact: Randy A Smith
Tel: +1 952 431 3273
rasmay4@frontiernet.net
www.stampsminnesota.com

JULY 21-24

UK

Philatelic Congress of Great Britain

Venue: Cambridge Belfry Hotel, Back Lane, Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6BW.

Contact: www.gbcongress.uk

AUGUST 4-7

USA

APS StampShow

Venue: Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard, Portland, Oregon 97232.

Contact: American Philatelic Society, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823, USA.
Tel: +1 814 933 3803 ext 217
www.stamps.org

SEPTEMBER 14-17

UK

Autumn Stampex

Venue: Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0QH.

Contact: Graham Childs, PO Box 981, Southsea, Hampshire PO1 9PG
Tel: 023 9283 2289
info@philatelic-traders-society.co.uk

OCTOBER 21-26

TAIWAN

Philat Taipei 2016 World Stamp Exhibition

Venue: World Trade Centre, Exhibition Hall 1, Xinyi District, Taipei, Taiwan.

Contact: Organising Committee, Room 402, 55 Jinshan S Road, Sec 2, Taipei 10603, Taiwan
Tel: +886 2 2391 2088
Fax: +886 2 2396 9125
philataipei2016@mail.post.gov.tw
www.taipei2016.post.gov.tw/post/taipei2016/en

NOVEMBER 18-20

USA

Chicagopex

Venue: Westin Chicago Northwest, 400 Park Boulevard, Itasca, Illinois 60143.

Contact: Robert Glass
boblglas@mac.com
www.chicagopex.org



ABOVE: Visit Australia's unusual purpose-built capital city, Canberra, for its Stampshow 2016 in March

Every care is taken to ensure the details published are accurate, but we cannot be responsible for any errors or cancellations. You are advised to check with the event organisers before setting out.

UK & WORLDWIDE AUCTION DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER 8-11

DAVID FELDMAN

Tatiana Collection of British Empire & All World

Venue: 175 Route de Chancy, 1213 Onex, Geneva, Switzerland.

Contact: David Feldman

Tel: +41 22 727 07 77

Fax: +41 22 727 07 78

info@davidfeldman.com

www.davidfeldman.com

DECEMBER 9

AJH STAMPS

Venue: The Dunkenhall Hotel & Spa,

Clayton-le-Moors,

Lancashire BB5 5JP.

Contact: The Laurels, Manchester

Road, Accrington, Lancashire BB5 2PF

Tel: 01254 393740

sales@ajhstamps.co.uk

www.ajhstamps.co.uk

DECEMBER 9

BSA AUCTIONS

Venue: Units 1 & 2 Cantilupe Court,

Cantilupe Road, Ross-on-Wye,

Herefordshire HR9 7AN.

Contact: BSA Auctions

Tel: 01989 769529

www.birmauctions.co.uk

DECEMBER 9-10

ROBERT A SIEGEL

Worldwide Stamps & Postal History including the F Christian Killien Collection

Venue: 60 East 56th Street, New York, USA.

Tel: +1 212 753 6421

Fax: +1 212 753 6429

stamps@siegelauctions.com

www.siegelauctions.com

DECEMBER 10

SPINK

Bermuda from the Vestey Collection

Venue: 69 Southampton Row,

London WC1B 4ET.

Tel: 020 7563 4000

Fax: 020 7563 4066

info@spink.com

www.spink.com

DECEMBER 11

PHOENIX

Venue: Level 2, 170 Queen Street,

Melbourne, Victoria 3000, Australia.

Contact: GPO Box 4346, Melbourne,

Victoria 3001, Australia

Tel: +61 3 8682 9876.

Fax: +61 3 8677 2858.

sales@phoenixauctions.com.au

www.phoenixauctions.com.au

DECEMBER 12

BIL & CO

Venue: Washingborough Community

Centre, Fen Road, Washingborough,

Lincoln LN4 1AB.

Contact: Bil Tilbury

Tel: 01400 230769

biltilbury@btinternet.com

www.bilandco.co.uk

DECEMBER 12

SOUTH WEST

PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

Venue: The ISCA Centre, Summer

Lane, Whipton, Exeter, Devon

EX4 8NT.

Contact: 2nd Floor, The Watermark,

Erme Court, Leonards Road, Ivybridge,

Devon PL21 0SZ

Tel: 01752 698089

richard@swpa-stamp-auctions.com

www.swpa-stamp-auctions.com

DECEMBER 12

WÜRTTEMBERGISCHES

Venue: Relenbergstrasse 78, 70174

Stuttgart, Germany.

Contact: Joachim Erhardt

Tel: +49 711 228505

Fax: +49 711 2285080

info@briefmarkenauktion.de

www.briefmarkenauktion.de

DECEMBER 12-14

JOHN BULL

Venue: 7/F Kwong Fat Hong Building,

1 Rumsey Street, Sheung Wan,

Hong Kong.

Contact: John Bull Stamp Auctions

Tel: +852 2890 5767

Fax: +852 2576 5110

info@jbull.com

www.jbull.com

DECEMBER 14-15

MOSSGREEN

Keith Harrison Collection of Postcards & Collectors' Cards

Venue: 926-930 High Street,

Armadale, Victoria 3143,

Australia

Contact: Gary Watson

Tel: +61 3 9508 8888

Fax: +61 3 9508 8899

mail@mossgreen.com.au

www.mossgreen.com.au

DECEMBER 16

SPINK

Philatelic Collector's Series

Venue: 7 Via Balestra, 6900 Lugano,

Switzerland.

Tel: +41 91 911 62 00

Fax: +41 91 922 20 52

switzerland@spink.com

www.spink.com

JANUARY 13

WARWICK & WARWICK

Venue: The Greville Suite, Lord

Leycester Hotel, Jury Street,

Warwick, CV34 4EJ.

Contact: Chalon House, Scar Bank,

Millers Road, Warwick, CV34 5DB

Tel: 01926 499031

Fax: 01926 491906

info@warwickandwarwick.com

www.warwickandwarwick.com

JANUARY 17

SPINK

Meiso Mizuhara Collection of China Customs Post

Venue: 4/F & 5/F, Hua Fu Commercial

Building, 111 Queen's Road West,

Sheung Wan, Hong Kong.

Tel: +852 3952 3000

Fax: +852 3952 3038

china@spink.com

www.spink.com

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE POSTAL SALES

APEX

Tel: 01342 833413

info@apexstamps.com

www.apexstamp.com

COUNTY

county@stampauctions.co.uk

www.stampauctions.co.uk

MOWBRAY

Tel: +64 6 364 8270

mowbray.stamps@xtra.co.nz

www.mowbrays.co.nz

SANDAFAYRE

Tel: 01565 653214

stamp@sandafayre.com

www.sandafayre.com

UNIVERSAL

Tel: 01451 861111

info@upastampauctions.co.uk

www.upastampauctions.co.uk

VANCE

Tel: +1 905 957 3364

mail@vanceauctions.com

www.vanceauctions.com

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ONLINE SALES

DALKEITH

www.dalkeith-auctions.co.uk

DELCAMPE

www.delcampe.net

MCCUSKER

www.jamesmccusker.com

MOWBRAY

www.mowbrays.co.nz

PHILATINO

www.philatino.com

RASMUSSEN

www.bruun-rasmussen.dk

REGENCY

www.regencystamps.com

ROGERS

www.michaelrogersinc.com

SAMMARINESE

www.filsam.com

SANDAFAYRE

www.sandafayre.com

SKANFIL

www.skanfil.no

STAMP CENTER

www.thestampcenter.com

STAMPFAIR

www.stampfair.com

STANLEY GIBBONS

www.stanleygibbons.com

TORRES

www.antoniotorres.com

TRAFFORD BOOKS

www.traffordbooks.co.uk

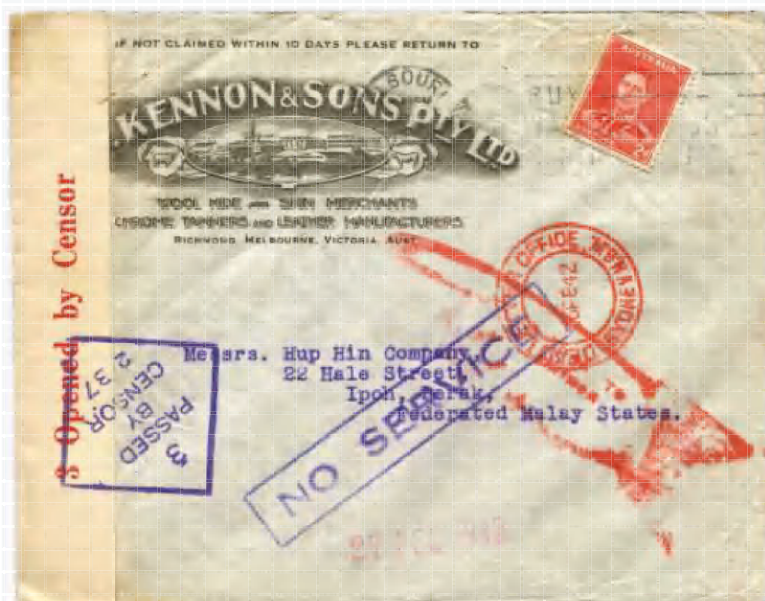
LOT TO BE DESIRED

The December 11 sale at Phoenix in Australia

includes this extremely attractive World War II 'service suspended' cover.

Sent from Melbourne in Australia to Ipoh in the Malayan state of Perak in February 1942, it features regular 'Passed By Censor', 'Dead Letter Office' and 'No Service' markings, but is most striking and desirable for its unusual large red pointed-finger 'return to sender' handstamp.

This lot is estimated at the equivalent of £70, with bidding starting at around £55.



UK STAMP FAIR DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER 11 LONDON

(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Galleon Suite, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, Russell Square, WC1H 0DG.
Time: 9am-4pm
Contact: Kate Puleston
Tel: 020 8946 4489

DECEMBER 12 EASTBOURNE

(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: St Mary's Church Hall, Decoy Drive, Hampden Park, BN22 9PP.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

GREAT BARR

(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Pheasey, B43 7NF.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Dave Burnett
Tel: 07765 792998

NORTON

(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Norton Methodist Church Hall, High Street, TS20 2QQ.
Time: 9.30am-1.30pm
Contact: Northern Stamp & Postcard Fairs
Tel: 01904 701464

PRESTON

(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Barton Village Hall,

Garstang Road (A6), PR3 5AA.
Time: 9.30am-4.00pm
Contact: John Roberts
Tel: 07943 174958

READING

(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: St Barnabas Hall, Grove Road, Emmer Green, RG4 8LN.
Time: 10am-4.30pm
Contact: David Milton
Tel: 01895 637283

REDBOURN

(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Redbourn Village Hall, 63 High Street, AL3 7LW.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Graham O'Hara
Tel: 07710 683122

DECEMBER 13 LUTON

(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Ramada Encore, Airport Way, Luton Airport, LU2 9LF.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Graham O'Hara
Tel: 07710 683122

WOKINGHAM

(stamps, postal history)
Venue: St Crispin's Leisure Centre, London Road, RG40 1SR.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: Nigel Stow
Tel: 01923 674999

DECEMBER 19 ADDLESTONE

(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Community Centre, Garfield Road, KT15 2NJ.
Time: 10am-4.30pm
Contact: David Milton
Tel: 01895 637283

BRIGHTON

(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Church of the Good Shepherd Hall, 272 Dyke Road, Hove, BN1 5AE.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: M J Perriman
Tel: 01903 244875

FINCHLEY

(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Methodist Church Hall, Ballards Lane, Essex Park, N3 1ND.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Graham O'Hara
Tel: 07710 683122

KEYNSHAM

(stamps, postal history)
Venue: The Fear Institute, Keynsham High Street, BS31 1DG.
Time: 9.30am-4pm
Contact: Kevin Noble Fairs
Tel: 07599 001101

SITTINGBOURNE

(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Carmel Hall, Ufton Lane, off West Street, ME10 1JB.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

THATCHAM

(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Thatcham Memorial Hall, Bath Road (A4), RG18 3AG.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Paula Cant
Tel: 01256 415699

DECEMBER 20 ALTRINCHAM

(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Cresta Court Hotel, Church Street, WA14 4DP.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: R Cudworth
Tel: 01484 866777

AMERSHAM

(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Jubilee Scout Hall, Rectory Hill, HP7 0BT.
Time: 10am-4.30pm
Contact: David Milton
Tel: 01895 637283

HATFIELD

(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Ramada Hatfield Hotel, St Albans Road West, AL10 9RH.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Graham O'Hara
Tel: 07710 683122

KNOWLE

(stamps, postal history)
Venue: The Village Hall, St John's Close, B93 0NH.
Time: 9.30am-3pm
Contact: Dave Burnett
Tel: 07765 792998



MAIDSTONE

(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Royal British Legion Hall, British Legion Village, New Road, Aylesford, ME20 7NL.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: M J Perriman
Tel: 01903 244875

DECEMBER 26 EALING

(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Polygon Complex, Ealing Parish Church,

St Mary's Road, W5 5EU.
Time: 9am-1pm
Contact: T Brittain
Tel: 07957 158299

DECEMBER 27

ASCOT
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: British Red Cross Centre, Heatherwood Hospital Entrance 3, Kings Ride, SL5 7RD.
Time: 9am-1pm
Contact: T Brittain
Tel: 07957 158299





SOUTHPORT (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Royal Clifton Hotel, The Promenade, PR8 1RB.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: R Cudworth
Tel: 01484 866777

DECEMBER 28 **AYLESBURY** (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Holiday Inn, Aston Clinton Road, HP22 5AA.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Graham O'Hara
Tel: 07710 683122

LECHDALE (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: New Memorial Hall, Oak Street, GL7 3Y.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Solent Stamps
Tel: 01489 582673

DECEMBER 29 **FARNHAM** (stamps, postal history)

Venue: Village Hall, Wings Road, Upper Hale, GU9 0HN.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Solent Stamps
Tel: 01489 582673

JANUARY 1 **FELBRIDGE** (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Felbridge Village Hall, Crawley Down Road, RH19 2NT.
Time: 10am-3.30pm

Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

JANUARY 2 **HASTINGS** (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Christ Church, London Road, St Leonard's-on-Sea, TN37 6GL.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

LEICESTER (stamps, postal history)

Venue: Derby Room, The Holiday Inn, St Nicholas Circle, LE1 5LX.
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: John Suschitzky
Tel: 0116 2350441

LIVERPOOL (stamps, postal history)

Venue: St Columba Church Hall, Hillfoot Road, Hunts Cross, L25 0NR.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: GBC Promotions
Tel: 0151 4862610

RAWRETH (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Parish Hall, Church Lane, SS11 8SH.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Steve Search
Tel: 01702 323682

SUTTON COLDFIELD (stamps, postal history)

Venue: The Trinity Centre,

Church Hill, Mill Street, B72 1TF.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: JRS Fairs
Tel: 01785 259350

JANUARY 3 **ALTRINCHAM** (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Cresta Court Hotel, Church Street, WA14 4DP.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: R Cudworth
Tel: 01484 866777



WORTHING (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Heene Community Centre, 122 Heene Road, BN11 4PL.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

JANUARY 8 **LONDON** (stamps, postal history)

Venue: Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, Russell Square, WC1H 0DG.
Time: Friday 9am-4pm
Contact: Kate Puleston
Tel: 020 8946 4489

JANUARY 9 **BECKENHAM** (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Azelia Hall, Croydon Road, BR3 4DA.
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: R&L Stamps
Tel: 020 8395 9285

DERBY (stamps, postal history)

Venue: Nunsfield House Community Hall, 33 Boulton Road, Alvaston, DE24 0FD.
Time: 9.30am-4pm
Contact: H V Johnson & Co
Tel: 01909 563394

EASTBOURNE (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: St Mary's Church Hall, Decoy Drive, Hampden Park, BN22 9PP.

Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

LAINDON (stamps, postal history)

Venue: Methodist Church Hall, High Road, Langdon Hills, SS16 6EX.
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: David Church
Tel: 01268 543371

MIDDLEWICH (stamps)

Venue: Community Centre, Civic Way, Leadsmithy Street, CW10 9BE.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: GBC Promotions
Tel: 0151 4862610

JANUARY 10 **WINCHESTER** (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Badgers Farm Community Centre, Badgers Farm Road, SO22 4QB.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

WOKINGHAM (stamps, postal history)

Venue: St Crispin's Leisure Centre, London Road, RG40 1SR.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: Nigel Stow
Tel: 01923 674999

JANUARY 15-16 **YORK** (stamps, postal history, coins)

Venue: The Grandstand, York Racecourse, York YO23 1EX.
Time: Friday 11am-6pm, Saturday 10am-4pm
Contact: Kate Puleston
Tel: 020 8946 4489

JANUARY 16 **BASINGSTOKE** (stamps, postal history)

Venue: The Costello School, Crossborough, RG21 4AL.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Paula Cant
Tel: 01256 415699

CHESTER (stamps)

Venue: Hoole United Reform Church, Hoole Road, CH2 3QU.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: GBC Promotions
Tel: 0151 4862610

HULL (stamps, postal history)

Venue: St Stephen's Church Hall, Freehold Street, off Spring Bank, HU3 1RB.
Time: 9.30am-4pm
Contact: H V Johnson & Co
Tel: 01909 563394

SITTINGBOURNE (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Carmel Hall, Ufton Lane, off West Street, ME10 1JB.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

JANUARY 17 **ALTRINCHAM** (stamps, postal history)

Venue: Cresta Court Hotel, Church Street, WA14 4DP.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: R Cudworth
Tel: 01484 866777

DRONFIELD (stamps, postal history)

Venue: Coal Aston Village Hall, Coal Aston, S18 3AY.
Time: 9.30am-4pm
Contact: H V Johnson & Co
Tel: 01909 563394

HERNE (stamps, postal history)

Venue: Herne Parish Hall, Herne Street, CT6 7HE.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

ORMSKIRK (stamps)

Venue: The Guide HQ, Moorgate, L39 4RT.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: GBC Promotions
Tel: 0151 4862610

WHAT'S ON: SOCIETIES

SELECTED UK PHILATELIC SOCIETY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER 10

BRISTOL PS Quiz & Raffle

Venue: Redland Park United Reformed Church, Whiteladies Road, BS6 6SA.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Rosemary Atkins
Tel: 01179 504427

MAIDSTONE & MID-KENT PS Royal British Legion by Godfrey Prior

Venue: Mote Park Indoor Bowls Club, Willow Way, ME15 7RN.
Time: 10.30am
Contact: Brian Stonestreet
Tel: 01622 675784

SOLIHULL PS Up to 16 Sheets: Islands

Venue: Solihull Cricket & Tennis Club, Marsh Lane, Solihull B91 2PF.
Time: 10.30am
Contact: Paul Woodness
Tel: 01564 776879

DECEMBER 15

WIMBLEDON & DISTRICT PS

Christmas Party
Venue: Residents' Pavilion, 129 Grand Drive, London SW20 9LY.
Time: 8pm
Contact: Barbara Priddy
Tel: 020 8946 6224

DECEMBER 16 BROMLEY & BECKENHAM PS President's Evening

Venue: Public Hall, Bromley Road, Beckenham BR3 5JE.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Davie Rennie
Tel: 020 8778 7001

GRIMSBY & DISTRICT PS Members Evening: Ships

Venue: Grimsby Central Hall, Duncombe Street, Grimsby DN32 7EG.
Time: 7pm
Contact: Trevor Smith
Tel: 01469 572354

POYNTON PS

Letter V & Christmas Buffet
Venue: The North Room, Poynton Community Centre, Park Lane, Poynton, SK12 1RB.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Ron Phelps
Tel: 01625 877643

DECEMBER 22 SPALDING & DISTRICT SC Christmas Social

Venue: The Frasier Room, Gosberton Road, Surfleet, PE11 4AB.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Frank Wilson
Tel: 01775 766117

JANUARY 4 PETERSFIELD PS Members' Displays

Venue: Petersfield Community Centre, Petersfield GU31 4BW.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Tony Shaw
Tel: 01730 264518

JANUARY 5

**SOLIHULL PS
Presidential Display
by Tony Whitehead**
Venue: Solihull Cricket & Tennis Club, Marsh Lane, Solihull B91 2PF.
Time: 2pm
Contact: Paul Woodness
Tel: 01564 776 879

JANUARY 6 GRIMSBY & DISTRICT PS Anything Goes

Venue: Grimsby Central Hall, Duncombe Street, Grimsby DN32 7EG.
Time: 7pm
Contact: Trevor Smith
Tel: 01469 572354

POYNTON PS All Show

Venue: The North Room, Poynton Community Centre, Park Lane, Poynton, SK12 1RB.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Ron Phelps
Tel: 01625 877643

JANUARY 7 BURNLEY & DISTRICT PS

**Russian Civil War
by Mark Everiss**
Venue: Central Methodist Church, Hargreaves Street, Burnley BB11 1DU.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: B W Evans
Tel: 01282 437272

MAIDSTONE & MID-KENT PS Women of Achievement by S Targett

Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, Boxley Road, Maidstone ME14 2AH.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Brian Stonestreet
Tel: 01622 675784

JANUARY 12 BURY ST EDMUNDS & DISTRICT PS Great Britain up to 1900

Venue: Church Institute, The Street, Great Barton, IP31 2NP.
Time: 7.30pm

Contact: Rod Finn
Tel: 01379 898292

ROCHDALE PS Postal History

Venue: Unitarian Chapel, Clover Street, Rochdale OL12 6TP.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Neil Wharmby
Tel: 01706 665698

JANUARY 14 BRISTOL PS One-Sheet Competition

Venue: Redland Park United Reformed Church, Whiteladies Road, BS6 6SA.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Rosemary Atkins
Tel: 01179 504427

SOLIHULL PS My Home Town

Venue: Solihull Cricket & Tennis Club, Marsh Lane, Solihull B91 2PF.
Time: 10.30am
Contact: Paul Woodness
Tel: 01564 776 879

ITALY & COLONIES STUDY CIRCLE

Some 19 members of the Italy & Colonies Study Circle and their partners, from the UK and USA, travelled to Rovereto in northern Italy for a 10-day visit which included excursions to the stamp and postcard fair in Lana and the postal history exhibition in Rovereto.

There were also trips to museums and war cemeteries dedicated to World War I, to Riva on Lake Garda and to a grappa distillery.

Plans are already underway for a two-centre trip to Turin and Genova in April, with excursions to the Bolaffi Museum and the Genova Stamp Show.

For further information on the ICSC, contact L R Harlow. Tel: 020 8977 8737. Or visit www.icsc.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk

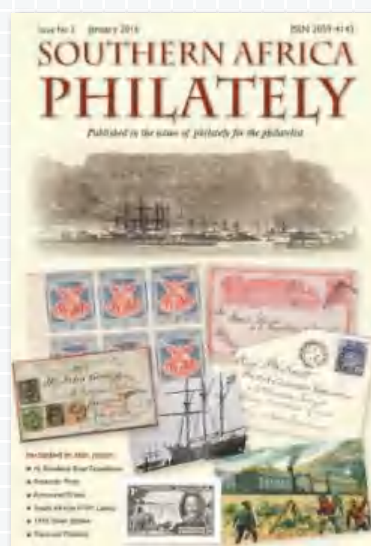


SOUTHERN AFRICA

At their latest joint conference, the philatelic societies specialising in the various countries of southern Africa launched a new journal covering areas of common interest.

An annual subscription costs £10 for three issues, and issue two will be available in January.

For further information visit www.southafricanstamps.net/southern_africa_philately.htm





Malaysia Sabah 1991 30c Rice
plate 6A block imperf to right margin.
Stunning new discovery. SG465var



Samoa 1898 2s 6d Palm Trees
strip with top stamps imperf
between. Fabulous. SG64ba



Botswana 2010 World Cup Football
imperf to right margin.
Magnificent and scarce. SGMS1146var



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Great Britain 1961 3d POSB
missing orange-brown.
Scarce and striking. SG624Aa



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Perhaps then they realise that only some of what they may have glistening is 'gold'. Indiscriminate internet auction bidders buying 1,000's of low price items ... may have spent large sums IN TOTAL ... but may not have created desirable collections. The cost of a low priced item is the labour and cost of selling it. Nothing changes when that item comes to being re-sold.

TIP 5). Now let's look at Public Auction. Yes – you will be hard pressed to find a Public Stamp Auction that does not accept on-line / live internet bidding. As with 'Pure Internet' stamp sales – and perhaps even more so – 'Caveat Emptor' (buyer beware becomes even more the mantra. Generally individual lots may have higher average values so that lots offered are often higher value collections, accumulations or higher value sets / singles / rarities. Such auctions are the 'haunts' of dealers and astute buyers ... but risk is attached, plus the absence of guarantees and the pernicious unpleasant buyer's premium + other charges which at certain auctions can convert a £1000 stamp purchase into as much as an invoice for £1,300.

TIP 5a). There are bargains to be had – but it is very much a 'big boys' playing field. Some of these auctions deliberately under-estimate lots that they know are worth far more ... so that they can then have the dubious pleasure of publicising that a £1,000 estimated lot realised £10,000, when perhaps their knowledge suggested it should have been estimated at upwards of £5,000 in the first place ... (hence – how wonderful they are).

TIP 5b). For certain types of lots such as actual Collections offered fairly intact the absence of guarantee combined with unreliable estimate means that for those who do not physically view a Public Stamp Auction and bid 'blind' – this is a dangerous place to be. Of course this may work to the advantage of an astute bidder who is actually present to physically view lots in the auction room. Historically that person was usually a Dealer. Perhaps less so these days.

TIP 6). Finally we come to look at Postal Auctions/ Mail-Bid Sales. First I must profess that I have an interest in a Mail-Bid / Postal Auction Sale. My company U P A conducts the largest postal auctions in the U K ... What should the Collector or Dealer be looking for here?

TIP 6a). Most good Postal Auctions including U P A offer Collectors a **No Quibble Refund Guarantee (NQRG)** ... and by 'No Quibble' I mean **NO QUIBBLE**. Look for this – it is crucial. You are probably not

actually seeing the stamps before bidding ... so no guarantee would mean unacceptable risk.

TIP 6b). Unlike Public Auctions most Postal Auctions 'break' many collections into smaller 'collector-sized' units so that you may find what you seek without having to purchase what you do not need - it follows that most of the stamps in most postal auctions may be owned by the company presenting the auction. It is not viable to sell low priced lots on a commission basis. Ask yourself why you may be asked to pay a buyer's premium? Is it actually a Vendor's lot or owned by 'The House'?

TIP 6c). The Buyer's Premium was introduced to 'split' cost between buyer and seller so that a 'low' seller's commission looks attractive (if you forget about the premium the buyer is paying for the seller's stamps). Be aware of this or deal with auctions not charging a buyer's premium. You are in control. You can bid anywhere that you find what you seek – but it is good to be aware and informed.

TIP 6d). Prices Realised are IMPORTANT. For some unknown reason – even some larger Postal / Mail-Bid Auctions still do not produce lists of what their lots sold for after the auction. Look for auctions providing this feature – it provides reassurance combined with a trackable 'snapshot' of current market values PLUS what is selling and what is not selling. You can learn such a lot from 'Prices Realised' – I study them each day.

TIP 7). Credit Cards. 75% of some auction sales are settled by credit / debit card. The Biggest in the land has no need to charge you for use of them ... Sheer volume of business accesses lowest rates. Why are you paying a premium to use your card? Is the supplier making a profit upon the extra % you are charged to use your card?

TIP 8). Look for unique 'Collector friendly' benefits that turn the disadvantage of lots not being sold to your advantage. U P A, for example, has for the past 15 years offered their Unique Reducing Estimate System (**URES**) whereby lots are increasingly reduced in estimate price till sold – some have reached one penny and then sold. Approaching one million lots have been offered through this system.

TIP 9). Cost of Delivery is one of the most annoying hidden costs that collectors absolutely abhor. Look for transparency in this area.

TIP 10). Beware the Seller / Auction NOT including Insurance when sending your winnings.

And Finally We come to choice ... and mind-set ?

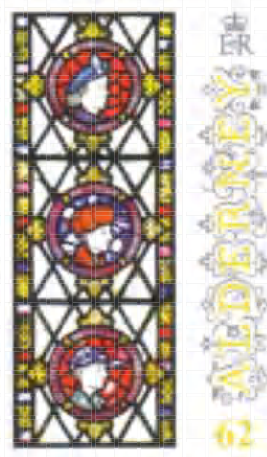
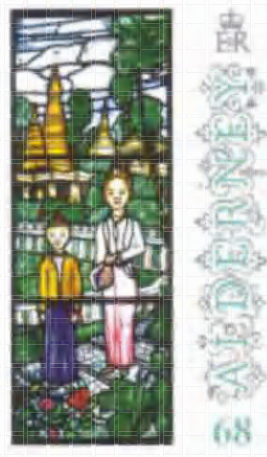
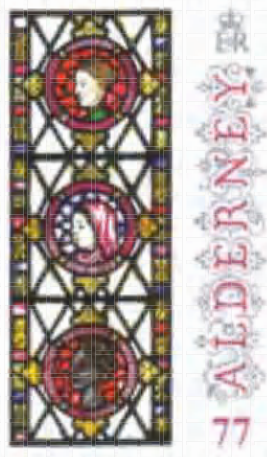
TIP Without Choice we have nothing. So it follows that you need substantial choice to form a good, even great, stamp collection. You cannot do business when each time you 'visit' all you see is what you have seen before – stagnating stocks offered at prices that ensure continued stagnation. If choice is limited you'll never find philatelic items you need – or even that you were unaware of their existence. That's the joy of collecting. The thrill of the unexpected, the chance find. You need dealers that want to help and auctions that wish to serve – so, in stamps 'attitude is all'.

So when you're searching for a stamp auction compare it against your list above of what to look for and if and when you're offered a 'No Risk Free Trial' ... please **turn to P.31**-take it Now ♦



003 ÅLAND

Julius Sundblom



006 ALDERNEY

Christmas 2015

YOUR IN-DEPTH GUIDE TO THE LATEST RELEASES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

This directory lists Great Britain first, followed by other countries in alphabetical order. It is limited to countries in which stamp issues are sold in post offices and for which reliable information is available. We aim to keep our listing as up-to-date as possible, but in attempting to provide more comprehensive detail than other guides we do not necessarily list every country each month. The three-digit number which appears before the date of each issue is for cross-referencing with the Thematic Checklist at the end of this section.

GREAT BRITAIN

(last listed in Dec 2015)

001 Oct 20, 2015

Star Wars

Design: Interabang, after illustrations by Malcolm Tween. All designs have a portrait of a film character, plus a smaller image of characters in action. All-over phosphor.

Printing: litho, International Security Printers. Two phosphor bands.

Gummed sheet stamps: sheets of 60, arranged in se-tenant strips of 6.

1st (63p) Darth Vader, played by British actor David Prowse

1st (63p) Yoda, animated character

1st (63p) Oki-Wan Kenobi, played by British actor Alec Guinness

1st (63p) Stormtrooper, played by various actors

1st (63p) Han Solo, played by American actor Harrison Ford

1st (63p) Rey, played by British actress Daisy Ridley

Gummed sheet stamps: sheets of 60, arranged in se-tenant strips of 6.

1st (63p) Princess Leia, played by American actress Carrie Fisher

1st (63p) The Emperor, Darth Sidious, played by British actor Ian McDiarmid

1st (63p) Luke Skywalker, played by American actor Mark Hamill

1st (63p) Boba Fett, played by various actors

1st (63p) Finn, played by British actor John Boyega

1st (63p) Kylo Ren, played by American actor Adam Driver

Self-adhesive commemorative sheet: sold at £6.80 (50p over face value). 10 stamps each with adjacent label.

1st (63p) x3 Yoda (positions 1, 5, 9)

1st (63p) x3 Darth Vader (positions 2, 6, 10)

1st (63p) x2 Han Solo (positions 3, 7)

1st (63p) x2 Stormtrooper (positions 4, 8)

Labels: Jedi Master and apprentice, meditating on the Force, confronting Count Dooku, 'I Am Your Father', assault on Echo Base, encounter on Bespin, the pirate and the princess, piloting the Falcon, Death Star defence, troops in a hangar bay

Note: American film franchise, started in 1977, with significant British input in terms of filming location, costumes and special effects. Issue notes the upcoming release of the seventh film, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, in December 2015

002 Oct 20, 2015

Star Wars

Design: GBH.

Printing: International Security Printers. All-over phosphor. Die-cut perf 14¼.

Miniature sheet: 6 separately spaced designs in different formats, all composite with border.

1st (63p) X-Wing Starfighter (format 21mm x 60mm)

1st (63p) X-Wing Starfighters (format 21mm x 60mm)

1st (63p) TIE Fighters, new (format 36½mm x 35mm)

1st (63p) AT-AT Walkers (format 30mm x 41mm)

1st (63p) TIE Fighters, classic (format 36½mm x 27mm)

1st (63p) Millennium Falcon (format 30mm x 60mm)

Note: the miniature sheet has a 10mm wide roulette-detachable label at left side, bearing barcode and paper certification information. This label was removed from miniature sheets included in the presentation pack

ÅLAND

(last listed in Sept 2015)

003 June 22, 2015

Julius Sundblom, 1865-1945

Design: Juha Pykäläinen (painting).

Printing: litho, Cartor. Non-denominated, inscribed 'Världen'.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 30 (2 x 15).

- (1.20€) profile of the journalist and campaigner for Åland rights, the Åland flag as it was during Sundblom's lifetime, and island view

Note: after the abdication of the Tsar of Russia (Åland had been part of the Russian empire), Sundblom led the Åland movement in 1917-1920, campaigning for Swedish-speaking Åland to become part of Sweden. In 1921 the League of Nations made the islands an autonomous demilitarised province of Finland

004 Sept 3, 2015

Åland Hunting Dogs

Design: Bo Lundqvist.

Printing: litho, PostNord, Sweden. Non-denominated, inscribed 'Inrikes'. Die-cut perf 13.

Self-adhesive booklet (10.80€): 9 stamps arranged in three rows of three designs.

1.20€ x 3 Finnish hound (a dog named Tova from Vårdö)

1.20€ x 3 Norwegian elkhound (a dog named Molle from Jomala)

1.20€ x 3 wire-haired dachshund (a dog named Kia from Jomala)

Cover: elkhound following trail in snow

Maximum cards: set of 3 showing heads of the three breeds, with post paid indicia on the reverse

005 Sept 3, 2015

Traditional Silver Jewellery

Design: Cecelia Mattsson.

Printing: litho, Cartor. Non-denominated, inscribed 'Europa'.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 30 (2 x 15) diamond-format stamps.

- (1.20€) Åland folk dress style brooch (women's scarf buckle), from the Viking Sundberg collection

Sheet stamp: sheets of 30 (2 x 15) diamond-format stamps.

2.00€ Swiss folk dress brooch (to secure yoke worn over shoulder) in 19th century style of Canton Bern

Note: joint issue with Switzerland. A two-country presentation folder was also released

ALDERNEY

(last listed in Oct 2015)

006 Nov 6, 2015

Christmas 2015. Stained Glass Window

Design: Two Degrees North, from windows designed by William Morris Workshop in St Anne's Church, Alderney.

Printing: litho, Southern Colour Print, New Zealand.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 50.

37p heads of three children (two girls and a boy)

42p Jesus holding baby with three children by his feet, with St Anne's Church in background

56p heads of three children (three different girls)

57p boy and girl amid flowers on jungle path

62p heads of three children (boy in blue beret, girl in red hat, boy in coloured cap)

68p two Burmese girls, with temple in background

77p heads of three women (European, Asian and African)

Note: the window is dedicated to Anne French, a charity worker with children in Africa and Burma

007 Nov 10, 2015

70th anniversary of the Homecoming

Design: Robin Carter.

Printing: litho, Cartor.

Miniature sheet: design composite with border.

£3 ship *Autocarrier* arriving in Alderney, bringing returnees from mainland Britain

Note: Alderney residents were evacuated to Britain in anticipation of German invasion in June 1940. The first group of returnees reached the island on December 15, 1945, to find their homeland devastated by German occupation

AUSTRIA

(last listed in June 2015)

008 2014, issue date uncertain Definitives. Austrian Landmarks

Design: Teresa Hausgnost.

Printing: litho. Die-cut perf 14. Non-fluorescent.

Self-adhesive coil stamps: coils of 25 (62c and 145c), 50 (90c) or 100 (62c).

62c Lindwurmburgen (dragon fountain) at Klagenfurt

90c Festung Hohensalzburg (fortress) in Salzburg

145c Pöstlingbergkirche (church) in Linz

Note: these designs were previously released incorporating fluorescent ink in 2013 (listed in March 2014)

009 2014, issue date uncertain Definitives. Austrian Landmarks

Design: Teresa Hausgnost.

Printing: litho. Die-cut perf 14. Non-fluorescent.

Self-adhesive booklet:

62c x 4 Goldenes Dachl (golden-roofed building) in Innsbruck

Self-adhesive booklet:

62c x 10 Martinsturm (tower) in Bregenz

90c x 4 Bergkirche (town church) in Eisenstatte

Note: these designs were previously released incorporating fluorescent ink in 2013 (listed in March 2014)

010 Jan 20, 2015

80th anniversary of the Birth of Toni Sailer & 75th anniversary of the Hahnenkammrennen (ski race), Kitzbühel

Design: Marion Fullerer.

Printing: litho, ÖSD, Vienna.

Miniature sheet: design composite with border.

62c photographic portrait of 'Toni' (Anton Englebert) Sailer, 1935-2009

70c the Kitzbüheler Gams (trophy) in form of a chamois, and stylised outline of Hahnenkamm mountain

Note: Sailer was a downhill and combined Olympic gold medallist in 1956, and World Champion in 1958, also ski clothing entrepreneur, race organiser, cinema and television soap opera star, and singer

011 Jan 21, 2015

Stamp Design Competition. Austria in Motion: Social Change

Design: Nikolaus Schmidt (competition winner from Vienna).

Printing: litho, ÖSD, Vienna.

Sheetlet (3 x 2):

- (62c) *Austria Does Move*, graphic work of optical illusionary lines in style of maze

Note: the country name and value are ingeniously incorporated in the design, although the only text that is readily visible is the designer and date imprint at foot

012 Jan 21, 2015

Musical Instruments. Vienna Timpani

Design: Maria Schulz.

Printing: recess and litho, ÖSD.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 50 (5 x 10).

145c Wiener Pauken (Vienna timpani, or kettledrums), plus treble clef

013 March 1, 2015

Austrian Inventions. The Graphite Pencil

Design: David Gruber.

Printing: litho, ÖSD, Vienna.

Sheetlet: 10 stamps (2 x 5), with illustrated tabs at left and right.

80c portrait of Joseph Hardtmuth, 1758-1816, holding box of Mephisto pencils, and two pencils against graph paper

Tab: pencil drawing a portrait of Hardtmuth

Note: a builder, architect and inventor, Hardtmuth developed and manufactured an improved pencil with a 'lead' of compressed ground graphite and ball clay. The advantage of his method was a strong product that could be produced in various degrees of hardness. The successor Koh-i-Noor pencil company was founded by his grandson Franz in Budweix, Bohemia, in 1848. A set of three colour-separation sheets of 10 stamps was also available

014 March 1, 2015

Classic Trademarks series. Scharnter Bombe

Design: Dieter Kraus.

Printing: litho, ÖSD, Vienna.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 50.

68c historic advertisement poster for the drink, first bottled 1927, depicting woman and distinctive bottles

Note: water flavoured with fruit syrup (typically citrus), produced in Leppersdorf from a mineral spring; the name of the product is taken from the shape of the green glass bottles

015 March 1, 2015

Definitives. Impressions of Austria

Design: Eva Tiess. All designs are de-colourised photographs with coloured map backgrounds in the form of the frontiers of Austria or of Austrian provinces.

Printing: litho, Enschedé. Die-cut perf 13½.

Self-adhesive coil stamps: boxed coils of 25 (68c, 140c), 50 (6c, 10c, 20c, 40c), 100 (68c, 80c, 100c), stamps separately spaced on translucent buff backing with no matrix.

6c Riesenrad (ferris wheel), Prater Park, Vienna

10c Bergkirche (18th century church), Eisenstadt, Burgenland

20c monumental statue of Athena at the Parliament building, Vienna

40c sailboarder, on Neusiedler See, Burgenland

68c upper part of the Uhrturm (16th-century clock tower), Graz, Styria

80c Goldenes Dachl (detail of golden roof) at Innsbruck, Tirol

100c Martinsturm, Bregenz, Vorarlberg

160c Grossglockner, Hohe Tauern mountains, on border of Carinthia and Tirol

Self-adhesive booklet (2.72€): designs composite with surround.

68c x 4 Heidentor (Roman triumphal arch),

Carnuntum Archaeological Park, Lower Austria

Self-adhesive booklet (3.20€): designs composite with surround.

80c x 4 Stephansdom (detail of roof and tower of the cathedral), Vienna

Self-adhesive booklet (4.00€): designs composite with surround.

100c x 4 Pöstlingbergkirche, Linz, Upper Austria

Self-adhesive booklet (6.00€): designs composite with surround.

150c x 4 Lindwurmburgen (dragon sculpture on fountain), Klagenfurt, Carinthia

Self-adhesive booklet (6.40€): designs composite with surround.

160c x 4 Murinsel (artificial floating platform on the River Mur), Graz, Styria

Self-adhesive booklet (6.80€): designs composite with surround.

170c x 4 Bergiselschanze (upper part of the tower of the Bergisel ski jump), Innsbruck, Tirol

Self-adhesive booklet (6.80€): designs composite with surround.

68c x 10 Festung Hohenzalzburg (walls of fortress), Salzburg

Self-adhesive booklet (16.00€): designs composite with surround.

400c x 4 Burg Forchtenstein (fortress keep and tower), Forchtenstein, Burgenland

Note: booklet covers reproduce the stamp design, and have a punched hole for 'hang-sell' vending. The 3.60€ and 6.80€ booklets have four 'Priority' labels in white on blue

016 March 7, 2015

Flower Painting

Design: Brigitte Heiden.

Printing: litho, ÖSD.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 50.

68c painting of pasque flower, Pulsatilla vulgaris

Note: this stamp was sent free of charge to subscribers to the philatelic service

017 March 7, 2015

Motorcycles. Delta Gnom 133

Design: David Gruber.

Printing: litho, ÖSD.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 50 (5 x 10).

220c Delta Gnom 123cc LM 125 light motorcycle (1953)

018 March 7, 2015

Comic Stamp Puzzles. Easter Bunnies

Design: Dominik Gröstlinger.

Printing: litho, Enschedé. Die-cut perf 14.

Self-adhesive miniature sheet (2 x 2): 4 stamps shaped as jigsaw pieces, forming composite design.

68c purple rabbit and forest hunting tower containing basket of eggs

68c rabbit couple relaxing on blanket spread on grass

68c orange rabbit tussling with mice to open wrapped Easter egg

68c pink rabbit discovering hidden basket of Easter eggs

019 March 13, 2015

650th anniversary of Vienna University

Design: Tea Mina Jaramaz.



012 AUSTRIA

Vienna Timpani



026 AUSTRIA

Traditional Costumes



014 AUSTRIA

Classic Trademarks



016 AUSTRIA

Flower Painting

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Printing: litho, ÖSD.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 50 (5 x 10).

100c '650' and drawing of buildings

020 March 28, 2015

St Teresa of Ávila, 1515-1582

Design: Dieter Kraus.

Printing: litho, ÖSD.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 50 (5 x 10).

170c portrait of the Spanish mystic, Carmelite nun and Roman Catholic saint

021 April 18, 2015

Opening of Austrian Literature Museum in the Grillparzerhaus, Vienna

Design: Anita Kern.

Printing: litho, ÖSD.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 50 (10 x 5).

68c interior of museum, with chair used by Ernst Jandl (poet and translator)

Note: a division of the Austrian National Library; the building housed the National Archives until 2006

022 April 24, 2015

Austria in Hollywood. Maria Schell

Design: Kirsten Lubach.

Printing: litho with varnish (lacquer) layer, Enschedé.

Sheetlet (5 x 2):

68c portrait drawing of the Austrian-Swiss actress, 1926-2005, as a film-strip image

Note: Schell's best known films include *Gervaise* (1956), *Cimarron* (1960) and *Superman* (1970). The varnish layer covers the film-strip frame, and creates a shiny, silvery effect. This issue was also sold in two premium packs, one containing three colour-separation sheets and the other a single stamp along with a version printed in silver

023 April 24, 2015

Eurovision Song Contest 2015, Vienna

Design: ORF-Tochterunternehmen OMC.

Printing: litho plus silver foil with optically variant inking, Enschedé.

Gummed sheet stamp: sheets of 50 (5 x 10).

80c 'Building Bridges' logo for Eurovision 2015, including chains of lights

Note: the optically variant inking means the stamp appears different when held at different angles. Inscriptions are in English and the design omits the country name, instead stating 'Vienna 2015'

024 April 24, 2015

Eurovision Song Contest 2015, Vienna

Design: ORF-Tochterunternehmen OMC (ORF).

Printing: litho (base label) and thermography (machine inscriptions and values).

Gummed vending machine labels:

† logo, sphere containing section of the contest logo (chains of lights), partial small map of Europe; inscription 'Eurovision 15'

† logo, undulating wave of lights, large map of Europe; inscription 'Eurovision 15'

Note: these labels were available from alternative machines, with thermographic inscriptions 'Philatelie Shop', 'Sonderpostamt' or 'Philapunkt', and philatelically as 68c denominations or in packs of three or four mixed denominations

025 April 26, 2015

Modern Architecture in Austria. Museum Liaunig

Design: Silvia Moucka.

Printing: litho, ÖSD.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).

68c Museum Liaunig (exterior view), Neuhaus, Carinthia

026 May 2, 2015

Traditional Costumes, third issue

Design: Anita Kern.

Printing: litho, Enschedé.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (5 x 2).

68c Tuxer Alltagsstracht costumes for man and woman

BAHRAIN

(last listed in July 2014)

027 April 6, 2014

10 Years of the Bahrain International Circuit

Designs: photographs of past winners of the Bahrain Grand Prix, in their cars, plus light trails. All designs carry a cameo portrait of the King of Bahrain.

Printing: litho, Oriental Press, Bahrain.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 16.

100f Michael Schumacher in a Ferrari, 2004
150f Fernando Alonso in a Renault, 2006 and 2010
200f Felipe Massa in a Ferrari, 2007 and 2008
250f Jenson Button in a Brawn-Mercedes, 2009
500f Sebastian Vettel in a Red Bull-Renault, 2012 and 2013

028 May 5, 2014

International All-Faith Dialogue of Civilisations & Cultures, Bahrain, May 5-7, 2014

Design: all designs carry a cameo portrait of the King of Bahrain.

Printing: litho, Oriental Press, Bahrain.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 15 (3 x 5).

200f logo of the event: tree with superimposed spheres, the gaps in the 'foliage' equating to a map of the world's continents
250f logo enlarged
300f logo, titles, pattern of green shapes

029 June 16, 2014

25th anniversary of the Bahrain Bourse, 1989-2014

Printing: litho, Oriental Press, Bahrain.

Sheet stamp:

200f emblem of the stock exchange and capital exchange market, and cameo portrait of the King of Bahrain

FRANCE

(last listed in Dec 2015)

Correction: the Hyacinth Macaw stamp issued on November 8, 2014 (listed in December 2015) was a UNESCO official stamp

030 Jan 30, 2015

Chinese New Year. Year of the Goat

Design: Aurélie Baras, from illustration by

Zhongyao Li.

Printing: gravure, PhilaPoste.

Sheetlet: 5 stamps arranged in vertical strips of 3, 2.

0.76€ goat, looking back over its shoulder, and Chinese character for goat

Border: landscape, and tabulation of Chinese new year zodiac (characters, and cartoon creatures with dates)

Miniature sheet:

0.76€ goat, looking back over its shoulder, and Chinese character for goat

Border: sculpture (computer art) of goat in riverine landscape

Note: the miniature sheet was sold in an illustrated folder priced at €3.30

031 Jan 30, 2015

Sense of Touch. Hands in Art

Design: Corninne Salvi, after sketches by various artists.

Printing: litho, PhilaPoste. Die-cut perf 11 x 11. Non-denominated, stamps inscribed 'Lettre Verte 20g'.

Self-adhesive booklet (8.12€): stamps affixed to inside covers in 3 groups of 4.

- (0.68€) hands drawing by Alphonse Legros, 1837-1911, French artist (lecturer at University College, London)
- (0.68€) hands making upward sweep and press-down motions, by unknown Italian artist, 18th century
- (0.68€) handshake and hands playing keyboard instrument, holding token and holding cloth, by Annibale Carraghe, 1560-1609, Italian artist
- (0.68€) hands holding bolt, mallet and chisel, by unknown Italian artist, 17th century
- (0.68€) hands holding open book, by Paul Delaroche, 1797-1856, French artist
- (0.68€) hands gripping with fingers, open palm gesture and on limb, by Gustave Moreau, 1826-1898, French artist
- (0.68€) hand holding musical instrument, by Louis Tocque, 1696-1772, French artist
- (0.68€) hand holding stylus, and hand drawing on human back, by Pierre Mignard, 1612-1695, French artist
- (0.68€) hands holding sheaf of papers, by Eugène Carrière, 1849-1906, French artist
- (0.68€) hand on table top, by Pablo Picasso, 1881-1973, Spanish artist
- (0.68€) hands binding a wreath, by Louis Tocque, 1696-1772, French artist
- (0.68€) hand dropping into a bowl, by unknown Italian artist, 17th century

Cover: handshake and hands playing keyboards, holding token and holding cloth, by Annibale Carraghe (outline drawing and engraving)

032 Feb 20, 2015

70th anniversary of Demaille

Design: Séra, after photograph by Joachim Bertrand.

Printing: gravure, PhilaPost.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 42 (6 x 7).

1.20€ two mine clearance experts carrying a bomb in a sling

Note: bomb and mine clearance and disposal service



025 AUSTRIA

Modern Architecture



029 BAHRAIN

Bahrain Bourse



034 FRANCE

Léonard Limousin



035 FRANCE

St Denis Cathedral

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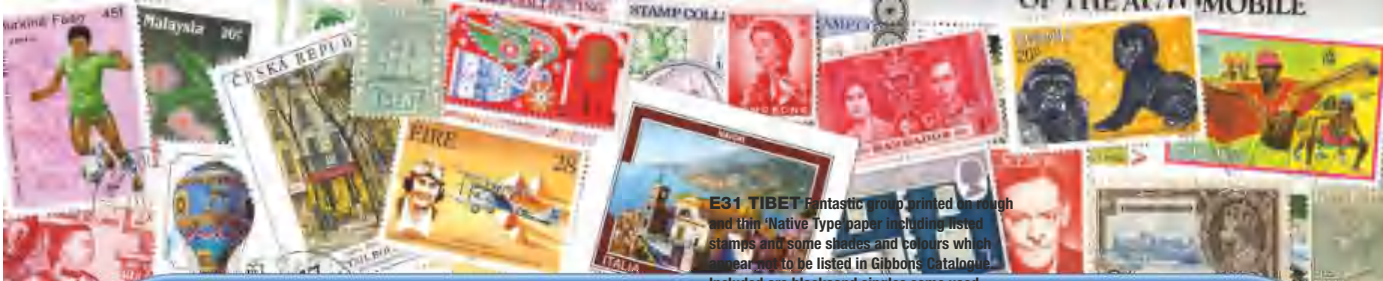
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033 Feb 21, 2015

Goat Breeds from the Regions of France

Design: Mathile Laurent.

Printing: gravure, PhilaPoste. Die-cut perf 11 x 11. Non-denominated, stamps inscribed 'Lettre Verte 20g'.

Self-adhesive booklet (8.16€): stamps affixed to inside covers in 3 groups of 4.

- (0.68€) Créole
- (0.68€) Poitevine
- (0.68€) Chèvre des Fossés (goats in cliff-top meadow, with Brittany lighthouse in background)
- (0.68€) Saanen
- (0.68€) Alpine
- (0.68€) Chèvre du Massif Central
- (0.68€) Pyrénéenne
- (0.68€) Angora
- (0.68€) Lorraine
- (0.68€) Rove
- (0.68€) Provençale
- (0.68€) Corse

Note: first day postmarks are dated February 21, but general release of the booklet did not take place until March 3

034 Feb 27, 2015

Léonard Limousin, c1505-c1575

Design: Sylvie Patte and Tanguy Besset, after enamel paintings by the artist.

Printing: gravure, PhilaPoste.

Miniature sheet: format 105mm x 143mm, designs composite with border.

- 1.90€ *Judgement de Paris* (1562, after Raphael), on plate
- 1.90€ *Sibille d'Erythrée* (the Erythrean Sybil, c1635-1640), holding a rose

Border: enamel-painted frame of chessboard (1537)

Miniature sheet: format 95mm x 200mm designs composite with border.

- 1.90€ *Judgement de Paris* (1562, after Raphael), on plate
- 1.90€ *Sibille d'Erythrée* (the Erythrean Sybil, c1635-1640), holding a rose

Note: the second miniature sheet was sold in an illustrated folder at 6.20€

035 March 14, 2015

Cathedrals of France. St Denis

Design & Engraving: Claude Andreotto.

Printing: recess, PhilaPoste.

Miniature sheet: format 105mm x 143mm.

- 0.73€ tomb of King Louis XII and his Queen, Anne of Brittany, in St Denis Cathedral
- 1.26€ detail of stained glass window, *The Tree of Jesse*

Border: exterior view of cathedral, from old print

Miniature sheet: format 95mm x 200mm.

- 0.73€ tomb of King Louis XII and his Queen, Anne of Brittany, in St Denis Cathedral
- 1.26€ detail of stained glass window, *The Tree of Jesse*

Border: sculpted frieze at top of arch

Note: the design of the 0.73€ has been questioned, and may depict the tomb of King Robert II and his wife Constance of Arles, also in St Denis Cathedral. The second miniature sheet was sold in an illustrated folder at €6.20

036 March 19, 2015

Hosting of the Belgian Government at Sainte-Adresse, Upper Normandy, France

Design: Sandy Ciffinet (0.76€) or Kris Demey (0.95€), from archive documents and old postcards.

Printing: gravure: PhilaPoste.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 42.

- 0.76€ the L'Hôtelierie Normande in Sainte-Adresse (constructed in 1911-1913), Belgian and French flags, line-up of Belgian government Ministers, ornate red pillar box
- 0.55€ building, Belgian government Ministers around table, top of red pillar box

Note: the Belgian government requested the hospitality of France on October 10, 1914, following invasion by Germany. The recently built Villa Dufayel, beneath the coastal cliffs at Sainte-Adresse provided accommodation for its ministries. A post office was established, and Belgian stamps were used. Joint issue with Belgium

037 March 19, 2015

Spring Stamp Salon, Port de Champerret, Paris

Design & Engraving: Yves Beaujard, from photograph by Tibor Bogner.

Printing: recess, PhilaPoste.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 12 (4 x 3).

- 0.68€ Hôtel de Ville (city hall), Paris

GREECE

(last listed in Nov 2014)

038 Aug 8, 2014

Tourism

Design: from photographs.

Printing: litho, Giesecke & Devrient Matsoukis. Non-denominated. Die-cut 13¼ x 13¼.

Self-adhesive booklet (8.00€):

- (0.80€) x 10 view on island of Santorini, with blue-domed churches

Cover: view on Santorini (as stamp), slogan 'Visit Greece'

Self-adhesive booklet (8.00€):

- (0.80€) x 10 entrance to port of Rhodes with two columns carrying statues of Elafos and Elafina (deer), ships in harbour

Cover: street scene in old city of Rhodes, slogan 'Visit Greece'

Self-adhesive booklet (8.00€):

- (0.80€) x 10 fishing cutter, flying Greek flag

Cover: slogan 'Visit Greece'

039 Aug 8, 2014

Tourism

Design: from photographs.

Printing: litho, Giesecke & Devrient Matsoukis. Non-denominated. Perf 14 x 13¼.

Generic personalisable sheet: 10 stamps each se-tenant with label.

- (0.80€) x 10 view on island of Santorini, with blue-domed churches

Labels: postal logo in blue and yellow

Generic personalisable sheet: 10 stamps each se-tenant with label.

- (0.80€) x 10 entrance to port of Rhodes with two columns carrying statues of Elafos and Elafina (deer), ships in harbour

Labels: postal logo in blue and yellow

Generic personalisable sheet: 10 stamps each se-tenant with label.

- (0.80€) x 10 fishing cutter, flying Greek flag

Labels: postal logo in blue and yellow

Note: sheetlets were sold philatelically at 13.00€ each

040 Sept 10, 2014

400th anniversary of the Death of El Greco, 1541-1614

Design: Myrsini Vardopolou, after painting *The Burial of Christ* in National Gallery, Athens.

Printing: litho.

Miniature sheet: design composite with border.

- 1.00€ detail of onlookers
- 1.50€ detail of the body of Christ

Border: the painting as a whole

Note: El Greco was the Spanish nickname of the Greek-born Domenikos Theotokopoulos

041 Oct 23, 2014

Greek Writers & Poets of the 20th Century

Designs: painted portraits, and details of manuscripts.

Printing: litho.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 25.

- 0.10€ Kostas Varnalis, 1884-1974
- 0.40€ Dido Sotiriou, 1909-2004
- 2.00€ Antonis Samarakis, 1919-2003
- 2.10€ Stratis Tsirkas, 1911-1980

042 Dec 12, 2014

Christmas 2014

Printing: litho. Die-cut perf 13½ (triangular stamps) or 12¼ (rectangular stamps).

Self-adhesive booklet (7.20€): designs composite with surround.

- 0.72€ x 5 sleigh, Christmas tree laden with presents, children, all in snowscene (triangular format)

- 0.72€ x 5 child dressed as elf, presents, toy train, all in snowscene (rectangular format)

Cover: child as elf and presents (as stamp motif), and QR code in green

Self-adhesive booklet (9.00€): designs composite with surround.

- 0.90€ x 5 reindeer wearing bobble hat, snowman in top hat, presents, all in snowscene (triangular format)

- 0.90€ x 5 toy train, sack of presents (rectangular format)

Cover: child as elf and presents (as 0.72€ stamp motif), and QR code in purple

Note: all four designs incorporate a QR code to connect to a mobile phone app

043 Dec 18, 2014

Memorable Advertising Posters

Printing: litho.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 25.

- 0.72€ Akakios and his donkey in Greek street, on 1927 poster for Misko pasta
- 0.72€ four children and a cat looking at writing on blackboard, on 1928 poster for Papadopoulos butter

044 Jan 21, 2015

Centenary of the Association of Journalists of Athens Newspapers (ESIEA)

Designs: portrait drawings, or emblem.

Printing: litho.



036 FRANCE

Belgian Government at Sainte-Adresse



043 GREECE

Memorable Advertising Posters



045 GREECE

Thermal Springs



Stamp issues 2015



Presentation packs (€42,00)
Special albums with the stamps
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Overprinted
Stamps

Definitive Stamps Issue 2014 - 2015
Intellectual Personalities of Cyprus -
Part B'



60th Anniversary of the EOKA
Liberation Struggle



Joint Issue
Cyprus - Armenia



Cyprus Desserts



The beauty
of Akamas



Euromed 2015 -
Boats of the
Mediterranean



Cyprus Castles



Europa 2015 -
Old Toys



150 years of the
International
Telecommunication
Union (ITU)



Cypriot Folk Art



Christmas 2015



Sheet stamps: sheets of 25.

- 0.01€ portraits of Paulos Palaologos, 1885-1984, journalist and writer, and Dimitris Psathas, 1907-1978, journalist, satirist and playwright
- 0.20€ portraits of Johann Jakob Meyer, 1798-1826, Swiss hellenist and newspaper editor, and Vlassis Gabrieldes, 1848-1920, political satirist and commentator
- 0.50€ portraits of Maria Rezan, 1921-2004, radio show presenter, journalist and writer, and Nikos Karantinos, 1920-2008, journalist and freedom fighter
- 0.72€ portraits of Amilios Chourmozios, 1904-1973, essayist, theatre critic, translator and journalist, and Marios Ploritis, 1919-2006, theatre and film critic
- 2.62€ ESIEA logo, and quotation from Johann Jakob Meyer over journalistic prose

045 Feb 26, 2015

Thermal Springs of Greece

Designs: all designs have a view of the spa, and an image of a bather being doused with water in the style of an ancient mural.

Printing: litho.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 25.

- 0.05€ spa buildings at Agios Nikolaos, Methana
- 0.10€ thermal baths at Loutraki-Perachora
- 0.23€ rocky beach with pool formed by ring of stones, Ikaria
- 0.72€ Therme Sylla Spa and the Wellness Hotel, Aidipsos
- 0.90€ waterfalls of Loutra-Loutrakiou
- 2.00€ Lake Vouliagmeni, south of Athens
- Note: Lake Vouliagmeni is a lake filling a collapsed cavern. Its water maintains a constant 24°C temperature year-round

046 March 30, 2015

Steam Locomotives

Design: from photographs.

Printing: litho.

Gummed sheet stamps:

- 0.20€ locomotive 40-45 (1951) with goods wagon
- 0.72€ locomotive Aa 901-940 (1926-1927)
- 0.80€ locomotive G 401-420 (1920) with tender
- 2.50€ locomotive Z 501-517 (1890-1901)

Gummed miniature sheet:

- 0.20€ locomotive 40-45 (1951) with goods wagon

Border: enlargement of the locomotive

Gummed miniature sheet:

- 0.72€ locomotive Aa 901-940 (1926-1927)

Border: two locomotives

Gummed miniature sheet:

- 0.80€ locomotive G 401-420 (1920) with tender

Border: enlargement of the locomotive

Gummed miniature sheet:

- 2.50€ locomotive Z501-517 (1890-1901)

Border: enlargement of the locomotive

Self-adhesive booklet (7.20€):

- 0.72€ x 10 locomotive Aa 901-940 (1926-1927)

Cover: colourised photograph of locomotive

Self-adhesive booklet (8.00€)

- 0.80€ x 10 locomotive G 401-420 (1920)

Cover: colourised photograph of Aa 901-940

GUERNSEY

(last listed in Sept 2015)

047 Nov 6, 2015

Christmas 2015. Stained Glass Window

Design: Two Degrees North. All designs show William Morris windows, designed in 1865, at St Stephen's Church, Les Grèves.

Printing: litho, Cartor. Die-cut perf 14.4 x 14.4 (wavy line) within rouletted label.

Self-adhesive sheet stamps: sheets of 10.

- 37p the Annunciation
- 42p visit of the Magi to Mary and Jesus
- 56p chorus of harp-playing angels
- 57p angels and crucified Christ
- 62p Joseph and Mary
- 68p church architecture
- 77p crowned Christ giving blessing, and angels

048 Nov 11, 2015

Stories From The Great War, 2nd issue

Design: Charlotte Barnes. All designs include a remembrance poppy and background map of part of the Western Front in 1914-18.

Printing: litho, BDT.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 10 (5 x 2) with enlarged upper borders.

- 42p Philip Carre, postman on Sark, in uniform of Royal Guernsey Light Infantry, and Christmas card sent by Guernsey postmaster to men on active service
- 56p SS Vera, steamer and mailboat between Guernsey and mainland Britain throughout the war (owned by London & South West Railway)
- 57p Christmas card sent to Guernsey from the front by Lieutenant Peter Le Page, 1915, and needlepoint 'Christmas Greetings' done by serving soldier privates J G Fowler, A W Smith, L W Burridge, H F Taylor and R F de Garris in uniform of Post Office Rifles, 1915, and Army Post Office postmark of 1915
- 62p field service postcard with pre-printed phrases, filled in and sent home by Private Yves Cataroche
- 77p Robert Bynam, a Guernsey postman (in uniform), his sweetheart Ethel, and King Edward VII 1d red stamp affixed on cover at a slant, with 1915 postmark

Borders: historical text

Prestige booklet (£14.48): 6 panes of 4 stamps with illustrated or text borders.

Pane 1: 4 x 42p Philip Carre

Pane 2: 4 x 56p SS Vera

Pane 3: 4 x 57p Christmas card

Pane 4: 4 x 62p Post Office Rifles

Pane 5: 4 x 68p field service postcard

Pane 6: 4 x 77p Robert Bynam

Cover: map of western front between Ypres and Metz, with front line marked

Note: the angle of the 1d stamp on the 77p indicated 'longing to see you again'

IRELAND

(last listed in Nov 2015)

049 Aug 13, 2013

Eileen Gray, 1878-1976. Furniture Designs

Design: Ger Garland.

Printing: litho, Cartor.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 16 arranged in 4 se-tenant blocks of 4.

- 70c toiletry cabinet / screen
- 70c Transat chair
- 70c adjustable table
- 70c cabinet with pivoting drawers

Prestige booklet (12.00€):

Pane 1: 70c, 70c, 70c, 70c

Pane 2: 70c, 70c, 70c, 70c

Pane 3: 70c, 70c, 70c, 70c

Pane 4: 70c, 70c, 70c, 70c

Cover: chair (not as stamp design)

Note: Gray's work spanned the Art Deco and Modernist movements. All the pieces depicted on the stamps date from 1926-29 and are unique, as she never developed industrial production. A permanent exhibition of her work has been created at the National Gallery of Ireland

050 Sept 10, 2015

The Five Senses

Design: Zinc Design.

Printing: litho, with additional print

embellishments, Cartor. Gummed (70c, 1.05€, 1.70€, 2.80€), or self-adhesive and transparent on white backing paper (1.25€).

Sheet stamps: sheets of 16.

- 70c taste: mouth with protruding tongue (stamp has strawberry flavoured gum)
- 1.05€ touch: hand with extended forefinger making rubbing motion (hand has thermochromatic ink which changes colour when warmed by touch)
- 1.25€ sight: eye (printed in black on transparent paper)
- 1.70€ hearing: ear (stamp thermographically printed with raised lacquer layer over ear, to create a sound when rubbed)
- 2.80€ smell: nose (stamp surface impregnated with a mint fragrance)

Note: each stamp carries five small logos indicating the five senses, and a 'camera' image to allow connection to additional content via a mobile phone app

ISLE of MAN

(last listed in Dec 2015)

051 July 17, 2015

75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain

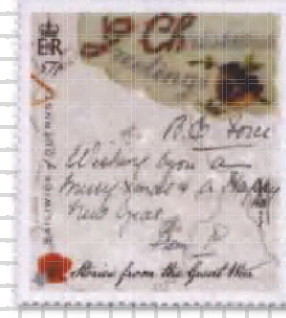
Design: K Creative, from illustrations by Keith Woodcock. All designs show one British and one German aircraft.

Printing: litho, BDT. Imprint date '2015'.

Sheetlet: 12 stamps and 8 labels.

- 70p x 2 Messerschmitt BF110 bomber and Hawker Hurricane fighter
- 70p x 2 Heinkel III bomber and Supermarine Spitfire fighter
- 70p x 2 Bristol Blenheim bomber and Junkers Ju88 bomber
- 70p x 2 Supermarine Spitfire fighter and Messerschmitt BF109 fighter
- 70p x 2 Messerschmitt BF109 fighter and Boulton Paul Defiant fighter
- 70p x 2 Junkers Ju87 bomber and Hawker Hurricane fighter

Labels: pilot with dog; flight crew relaxing on airfield grass; observers; pilots with badge; air crew playing draughts; parked aircraft; aerial view; Fighter Command control room



048 GUERNSEY
Stories From The Great War



050 IRELAND
The Five Senses

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Border: St Paul's Cathedral, aircraft, pilot, flight crew and aircraft, 75th anniversary emblem, fighters in formation
Note: a limited-edition folder was also released, containing a sheetlet and four picture postcards

KIRIBATI

(last listed in April 2015)

052 May 27, 2015

Butterflies of Kiribati

Design: Donna McKenna.

Printing: litho, Southern Colour Print, New Zealand.

Miniature sheet (2 x 1): free-form, cut around the two stamps and border image.

\$2.00 meadow argus, *Junonia villida*

\$3.00 blue moon, *Hypolimnas bolina*

Border: meadow argus

LITHUANIA

(last listed in Oct 2015)

053 Aug 8, 2015

Contemporary Art. Costume Design by Juozas Statkevicius

Printing: litho.

Miniature sheet (2 x 1): format 65½mm x 91½mm. Design composite with border.

2.03€ x 2 fawn dress on display stand

Miniature sheet (4 x 1): format 65½mm x 170mm. Design composite with border.

2.03€ x 4 fawn dress on display stand

Note: the four-stamp sheet was sold in a numbered folder at a premium over face value

MALTA

(last listed in Sept 2015)

054 June 16, 2015

Culture

Design: from photographs.

Printing: litho, Printex.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 10 (5 x 2).

0.26€ the Festa (Feast of St George) at Victoria, Gozo

0.59€ annual Regatta (showing rowing event) in Grand Harbour, Valletta

1.16€ processing the statue of the Risen Christ on Easter Sunday, at Zebbug

Note: the 0.59€ is inscribed 'SEPA' as Malta's contribution to the 2015 Small European Postal Administrations Cooperation omnibus issue

055 July 9, 2015

EuroMed (Postal Union of the Mediterranean)

Design: Sean Cini.

Printing: litho, Printex.

Sheet stamps:

3.59€ firilla (wooden sea craft which could be rowed or sailed), used for fast transport and fishing

Note: this stamp forms part of the EuroMed omnibus issue for 2015

056 July 29, 2015

Maritime Malta, third issue. Shipwrecks

Designs: from ex-voto paintings held by the Sanctuary of the Blessed Virgin, Mellieha. All paintings include the Virgin and Child.

Printing: litho, Printex.

Sheet stamps:

0.51€ the brigantine *Concezione*, captained

by Giuseppe Giacomo, in shallow water during a thunderstorm off Alexandria, December 18, 1835

0.82€

the barque *Matautina*, captained by Giovanni Ellui, blown sideways onto shallow banks off Devripul, January 17, 1839

1.00€

the sailing coaster *S. Francesca di Paula*, captained by Giuseppe Diacono, with broken rudder, between Linosa and Lampedusa, December 9, 1843

Note: in each case the crewmembers aboard the ships are said to have been saved after praying to the Madonna of Mellieha

057 Aug 21, 2015

Bicentenary of the Birth of John Bosco (Don Bosco), 1815-1888

Design: detail from painting by Austin Camilleri, held by Savio College, Dingli.

Printing: litho, Printex.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 10.

2.00€ portrait of the Italian educator and founder of the Salesian Congregation and Salesian Sisters

058 Sept 7, 2015

450th anniversary of the Great Siege

Design: from painting of 1661 by Mattia Preti, 1613-1699, in St John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta.

Printing: litho, Printex.

Miniature sheet: design composite with border.

4.25€ *Allegory of The Triumph of the Order:* female figure of 'Victory' in armour and helmet, raising a sword in one hand and flag of the Order of the Knights of St John in the other, surrounded by battling cherubs, standing upon wounded men

Note: the Knights of St John, with Spanish backing, held out against the Ottoman Turks in the siege, which lasted from May to September, 1565

NAMIBIA

(last listed in June 2015)

059 July 28, 2014

Fauna & Flora of the Kalahari

Design: Helge Denker.

Printing: litho. Non-denominated, inscribed 'Postcard Rate'.

Miniature sheet: 10 stamps arranged in rows of 2, 4, 4 forming composite design.

- (N\$6) peregrine falcon, *Falco peregrinus*

- (N\$6) pair of Cape turtle doves, *Streptopelia capicola*

- (N\$6) shepherd's tree, *Boscia albitrunca*

- (N\$6) giraffe, *Giraffa camelopardalis*

- (N\$6) African monarch butterfly, *Danaus chrysippus*

- (N\$6) cheetah, *Acinonyx jubatus*

- (N\$6) gemsbok cucumber (perennial melon), *Acanthosicyos naudinianus*

- (N\$6) pair of meerkats, *Suricata suricatta*

- (N\$6) trumpet thorn, *Catophractes alexandri*

- (N\$6) spotted sandveld lizard, *Nucras intertexta*

060 Oct 1, 2014

Kingfishers

Design: Anja Denker.

Printing: litho, Enschedé. Non-denominated.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 10.

- (N\$5.70) pied kingfishers, *Ceryle rudis* (inscribed 'Zone A')

- (N\$6.40) half-collared kingfishers, *Alcedo semitorquata* (inscribed 'Postcard Rate')

- (N\$6.60) woodland kingfisher, *Halcyon senegalensis* (inscribed 'Zone B')

- (N\$7.70) malachite kingfishers, *Corythornis cristatus longirostris* (inscribed 'Zone C')

- (N\$26.50) giant kingfisher, *Megaceryle maximus* (inscribed 'Inland Registered Mail')

061 Feb 6, 2015

Namib Sand Sea, UNESCO World Heritage Site

Design: Helge Denker.

Printing: litho, Enschedé. Non-denominated, inscribed 'Postcard Rate'.

Miniature sheet (3 x 1): 3 ovoid stamps arranged in a horizontally se-tenant strip.

- (N\$8.40) dunes and denuded trees in the Deadvlei clay pan, near the Sossuvlei salt pan

- (N\$8.40) Namib dune cricket, *Comicus so*

- (M\$8.40) coastal dunes at Sandwich Harbour, with flying birds

Border: jackal amid dunescape

062 March 21, 2015

Inauguration of the Third President of Namibia

Design: Helge Denker, from photograph.

Printing: litho with gold foil. Non-denominated, inscribed 'Standard Mail'.

- (N\$3.50) portrait photograph of Dr Hage Geingob

Note: Dr Geingob was elected in 2014, inaugurated on March 21, 2015. He previously served in several different offices at the United Nations

063 March 21, 2015

25th anniversary of Independence

Design: Helge Denker.

Printing: litho.

Miniature sheet:

N\$30 the three Presidents of Namibia: Sam Njoma (1990-2005), Dr Hikekepunye Pohamba (2005-2015) and Dr Hage Geingob (2015-); background of flag in silver

Border: outline map and '25'

064 May 15, 2015

Birds. Bee-Eaters of Namibia

Design: Helge Denker.

Printing: litho.

Sheet stamps:

- (N\$3.50) white-fronted bee-eater, *Merops bullockoides* (inscribed 'Standard Mail')

N\$5.70 southern carmine bee-eater, *Merops nubicoides*

N\$6.60 swallow-tailed bee-eater, *Merops hirundineus*

N\$7.70 little bee-eater, *Merops pusillus*

- (N\$28.30) European bee-eater, *Merops apiaster* (inscribed 'Inland Registered Mail')

065 June 22, 2015

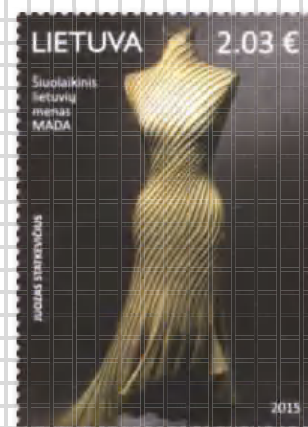
Small Antelopes of Namibia

Design: Helge Denker.

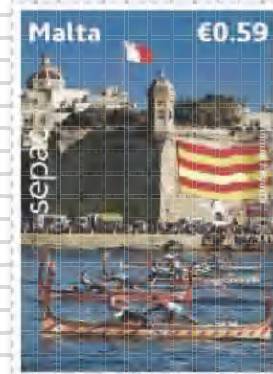
Printing: litho. Non-denominated, inscribed



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'Postcard Rate'.

Sheet stamps:

- (N\$6.40) Damara dik-dik, *Madoqua kirkii*
 - (N\$6.40) klipspringer, *Oreotragus oreotragus*
 - (N\$6.40) common duiker, *Sylvicapra grimmia*
 - (N\$6.40) steenbok, *Raphicerus campestris*
- Note: these stamps feature antelopes weighing less than 20kg; a previous issue featured Large Antelopes

PENRHYN

(last listed in Feb 2013)

066 Nov 16, 2012

Christmas 2012. Paintings by Antonio Allegri da Correggio

Design: Alison Dittko.

Printing: litho.

Sheet stamps: stamps with white frames.

- 80c *Christ Taking Leave of his Mother*, c1512
- 80c *Deposition from the Cross*, c1525
- 90c *The Martyrdom of Four Saints*, c1823
- 90c *The Mystic Marriage of St Catherine with St Sebastian*, c1526-1527
- \$3 *Nativity*, c1510-1519
- \$3 *The Nativity of Christ*, c1529-30

Miniature sheet: stamps with gold frames.

- 80c, 80c 90c, 90c, \$3, \$3, designs as sheet stamps but with different frame colour

067 Nov 27, 2012

Definitives. Tropical Fish of the Pacific

Design: Alison Dittko.

Printing: litho, BDT. Perf 14.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 32 arranged in 8 se-tenant blocks of 4; stamps with white frames.

- 80c doubletooth soldierfish, *Myripristis hexagona*
- 90c common parrotfish, *Scarus psittacus*
- \$1.10 moorish idol, *Zanclus cornutus*
- \$1.20 white-spotted surgeonfish, *Acanthurus guttatus*

Sheet stamps: sheets of 32 arranged in 8

- se-tenant blocks of 4; stamps with white frames.
- \$2.00 royal angelfish, *Pygoplites diacanthus*
- \$2.25 orange-nosed butterflyfish (or black butterflyfish), *Chaetodon flaviviridis*
- \$4.00 squareback anthias, *Pseudanthias pleurotaenia*
- \$5.00 ornate butterflyfish, *Chaetodon ornatissimus*

Sheet stamps: sheets of 32 arranged in 8 se-tenant blocks of 4; stamps with white frames.

- \$6.00 black-back butterflyfish, *Chaetodon melanotus*
- \$8.00 banded morey (or yellow-headed moray), *Gymnothorax rueppellii*
- \$10.00 ocellated dragonet, *Synchiropus ocellatus*
- \$20.00 Pacific chub, *Kyphosus sandwichensis*

Miniature sheet (2 x 2): stamps with design bleeding to edges.

- 80c, 90c, \$1.10, \$1.20, designs as sheet stamps

Border: ray

Miniature sheet (2 x 2): stamps with design

bleeding to edges.

- \$2.00, \$2.25, \$4.00, \$5.00, designs as sheet stamps

Border: atoll from air

Miniature sheet (2 x 2): stamps with design bleeding to edges.

- \$6.00, \$8.00, \$10.00, \$20.00, designs as

sheet stamps

Border: coco-de-mer on beach, sprouting

068 Dec 21, 2012

Template Stamp for Personalisable Issues

Printing: litho.

- \$4 panel inscribed 'Penrhyn/Northern Cook Islands', and flag, with about five-sixths of the stamp area left blank for personalisation

Note: no evidence has been seen of a stamp personalisation service operating in Penrhyn

069 Feb 21, 2013

Chinese New Year. Year of the Snake

Design: Alison Dittko. All designs have snakes illustrated in faux Chinese style.

Printing: litho, BDT.

Miniature sheet (2 x 2):

- \$1.20 yellow and blue-spotted snake (blue background)
- \$1.20 green and yellow-spotted snake (magenta background)
- \$1.20 brown, purple and white-spotted snake (light green background)
- \$1.20 violet and brown-spotted snake (pale yellow background)

070 Aug 1, 2013

Commemorating the Birth of Prince George of Cambridge, July 22, 2013

Design: from photographs by Michael Dunlea.

Printing: litho, BDT.

Miniature sheet (3 x 1):

- \$1.30 Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, wearing dark-spotted white dress
- \$1.50 Catherine in lemon yellow dress, and kiss between Catherine and Prince William on their wedding day
- \$1.70 Catherine in silvery-cream dress and cream coat and hat

Note: three of the four photographs were taken during Catherine's pregnancy

071 Sept 26, 2013

China International Collection Expo 2013, Beijing

Printing: litho, Henan Post & Telecom Printing Factory, China.

Miniature sheet (2 x 1):

- \$1.50 *Landscape With Black Pigs & A Crouching Tahitian*, painting by Paul Gauguin
- \$1.70 Beijing Exhibition Centre

072 Nov 8, 2013

50th anniversary of the Death of President John F Kennedy

Design: Alison Dittko, from photographs.

Printing: litho, BDT.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 9 (3 x 3).

- \$2.00 formal portrait of the US President
- \$3.00 Kennedy greeting supporters at a rally, and quotation 'The highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them'

073 Nov 11, 2013

Definitives. Tropical Fish of the Pacific, 2nd issue. Fish & Corals

Design: Alison Dittko.

Printing: litho, BDT. Perf 14.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 20 (2 x 10); stamps with

white frames.

- 30c ornate butterflyfish, *Chaetodon ornatissimus*, and taputapu coral
- 50c yellow sea chub, *Kyphosus pacificus*, and pipi coral
- \$1.00 white-spotted surgeonfish, *Acanthurus guttatus*, and api coral
- \$1.30 orange-nosed butterflyfish, *Chaetodon flaviviridis*, and taputapu coral
- \$1.50 pinecone soldierfish, *Myripristis murdjan*, and ku coral
- \$1.70 regal angelfish, *Pygoplites diacanthus*, and taputapu coral
- \$2.40 Moorish idol fish, *Zanclus cornutus*, and taputapu reva coral
- \$2.50 common parrotfish, *Scarus psittacus*, and pakati u'u coral
- \$3.50 blue ribbon eel (or ribbon moray), *Rhinomuraena quaesita*
- \$4.50 ocellated dragonet, *Synchiropus ocellatus*, and unidentified coral
- \$7.50 yellowhead moray, *Gymnothorax rueppelliae*, and unidentified coral
- \$12.90 blue jaw tilefish, *Hoplolatilus starcki*, and unidentified coral

Miniature sheet (3 x 4): stamps with blue

frames.

- 30c, 50c, \$1.00, \$1.30, \$1.50, \$1.70, \$2.40, \$2.50, \$3.50, \$4.50, \$7.50, \$12.90, designs as sheet stamps but with different frame colour

074 Nov 18, 2013

Christmas 2013. Paintings

Design: Alison Dittko.

Printing: litho, BDT.

Sheet stamps:

- \$1.00 *Adoration of the Magi*, by Peter Paul Rubens
- \$1.30 *Adoration of the Magi*, by Albrecht Dürer
- Miniature sheet:** 3 stamps se-tenant in 1/2 arrangement.
- \$2.00 *Adoration of the Magi*, by Sandro Botticelli
- \$2.10 *Three Kings Worshipping Christ*, by William Brasseley Hole
- \$2.60 *Adoration of the Shepherds*, by Gerard van Horsthorst

075 Jan 10, 2014

Chinese New Year. Year of the Horse

Design: Alison Dittko.

Printing: litho, BDT.

Miniature sheet (2 x 2):

- \$1.00 black-spotted dark red horse, pale yellow background
- \$1.30 black-spotted dark red horse, pale yellow background
- \$1.50 black-spotted dark red horse, bright blue background
- \$1.70 black-spotted dark red horse, green background

076 April 8, 2014

Easter 2014. Paintings

Design: Alison Dittko.

Printing: litho, BDT.

Miniature sheet (2 x 3): 5 stamps and 1 label.

- 50c *The Resurrection of Christ*, by Peter Paul Rubens
- \$1 *Scenes of the Passion & Resurrection of Christ (detail)*, by Lambert Lombard



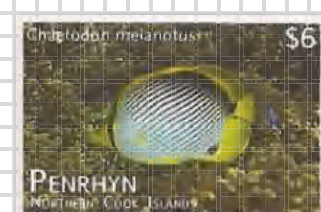
074 PENRHYN

Christmas 2013



073 PENRHYN

Definitives. Tropical Fish



067 PENRHYN

Definitives. Tropical Fish

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\$1.30 *The Resurrection of Christ*, by Titian
 \$1.50 *The Resurrection of Christ*, by Veronese
 \$1.70 *The Resurrection of Christ*, by Raphael
 Label: the resurrected Christ (painting)
Miniature sheet: design composite with border.
 \$9.50 *The Resurrection of Christ*, by Dieric Bouts the Elder

POLAND

(last listed in Nov 2015)

077 May 8, 2015

70th anniversary of the End of World War II

Design: Alexander Pietrzak.

Printing: gravure, PWPW.

Miniature sheet: design composite with border.

2.35zł man kneeling before memorial/tree which has blossoming branches growing through a soldier's helmet

078 May 28, 2015

World Expo 2015, Milan. Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life

Design: Agnieszka Sancierwicz.

Printing: litho, PWPW.

Miniature sheet: design composite with border.

5.20zł apple (in red), inscription (in white on deep orange)

Border: other fruits (including strawberry, gooseberry, currants) and emblem (multiple hash tags)

079 May 29, 2015

Jan Twardowski, 1915-2006

Design: Marzanna Dabrowska.

Printing: litho, PWPW.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 16.

1.75zł portrait of the priest and poet

080 June 1, 2015

The Magical World of Disney. Characters from the Film Frozen

Design: Agnieszka Sancierwicz.

Printing: litho, PWPW.

Miniature sheet (2 x 1): design composite with border.

2.25zł Anna

2.25zł Elsa

Border: Olaf and Ice Palace

Note: the digitally animated film was released in December 2013

081 June 14, 2015

World Blood Donors Day

Design: Andrzej Gosik.

Printing: gravure, PWPW.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 50.

1.75zł heart shedding droplet of blood into heart-shaped container

082 June 19, 2015

Lighthouses

Design: Jacek Konarzewski, from photographs.

Printing: gravure, PWPW.

Sheetlet (3 x 2): 5 stamps and 1 label (in position 2).

2.35zł Rozewie lighthouse, built in 1822;

2.35zł Kikut lighthouse, built in 1962

(replacing 1826 lighthouse)

2.35zł Swinoujscie lighthouse, built in 1875

2.35zł Jastarnia lighthouse, built in 1950 (replacing 1930 lighthouse)

2.35zł Gdansk Navy Port lighthouse (modern build)

Label: waves on groyne (photograph)

Border: view of rough sea

083 June 25, 2015

Count Jan Potocki, 1761-1815

Design: Maciej Jedrysik.

Printing: litho, PWPW.

Sheetlet (2 x 3): with decorated border.

5zł x 6 portrait of the traveller, linguist, Egyptologist, playwright, and riding a horse, open-air execution scene (hanging), ancient Egyptian women, musicians

084 June 26, 2015

Definitive. Sunflower

Design: Marzanna Dabrowska.

Printing: gravure, PWPW.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 100.

1zł detail of head of sunflower

085 July 1, 2015

Polish Presidency of the Council of the Baltic States

Design: Jacek Konarzewski, from photographs.

Printing: litho, PWPW.

Sheetlet (3 x 3):

5zł x 9 rocks in sea (coloured ochre, green, blue and scarlet), and groyne

RUSSIA

(last listed in Nov 2015 issue)

086 April 30, 2014

Europa 2015. Musical Instruments

Design: S Ulyanovsky (illustration).

Printing: litho, Goznak.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 9 (3 x 3) with illustrated border.

18r winter scene outside St Basil's Cathedral, Moscow, with man playing balalaika, accompanied by dancers and singers

Border: musical notation

087 May 5, 2014

Yakov Borisovich Zeldovich (1914-1987)

Design: A Povarikhin.

Printing: litho, Goznak.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 15 (3 x 5).

18r portrait of the astrophysicist and nuclear scientist (wearing medals), and cosmic bodies

088 May 21, 2014

Clock Towers

Design: S Ulyanovsky.

Printing: litho, Goznak.

Sheetlet (3 x 3): 8 stamps and 1 label (in position 5).

15r x 4 Zytlogge defensive clock tower in Bern, Switzerland (constructed 1218-1220), with striking clock by Kaspar Brunner

20r x 4 clock tower of Kazansky Railway Station in Moscow by the architect A V Shchusev, who also designed the zodiac signs on the clockface

Label: clock face of Zytlogge

Border: signs of the zodiac

Note: joint issue with Switzerland

089 June 4, 2014

The Consent (Concord) Tower, Magaz

Design: A Drobyshhev.

Printing: litho, Goznak. Stamps and sheetlet are diamond format.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 9 (3 x 3).

15r the Consent Tower in the capital of Ingushetia, and montane view

Note: tower constructed in 2013 in style of medieval Ingush towers

090 June 10, 2014

300th anniversary of St Petersburg Post Office

Design: O Ivanova.

Printing: litho, Goznak.

Miniature sheet: circular stamp, design composite with border.

50r 300th anniversary emblem

Border: modern postvan in yard of the original Post Office building, Imperial Russian stamped cover and stamp, two stamps of USSR

091 June 19, 2014

Regions of the Russian Federation. The Republic of Crimea (Krim)

Design: V Beltyukov.

Printing: litho, Goznak.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 36.

15r Swallow's Nest (palace/castle) overlooking the Black Sea, grapes on vine and vineyards, mountains

Note: Crimea, part of Ukraine, was annexed by Russia in March 2014 after military intervention. A treaty confirming the incorporation of the Crimea into Russia was signed by the imposed Crimean government in Moscow on March 18, 2014

092 June 20, 2014

Regions of the Russian Federation. The Federal City of Sevastopol

Design: V Beltyukov.

Printing: litho, Goznak.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 36.

15r aerial view, Russian frigate on Black Sea, building, Defence of Sevastopol Monument (noting events of Crimean War in 1854)

Note: Sevastopol is in Crimea, which was annexed by Russia in March 2014

093 June 20, 2014

250th anniversary of the Hermitage, St Petersburg

Design: S Ulyanovsky.

Printing: litho, Goznak.

Miniature sheet: design composite with border.

50r oblique aerial view of the Winter Palace/New Hermitage buildings, adapted from a photograph

Border: three-quarter-length painting of Empress Catherine the Great, who founded the Hermitage in 1764

094 June 24, 2014

Definitive. Coats of Arms series. Sergiev Posad

Design: A Povarikhin.

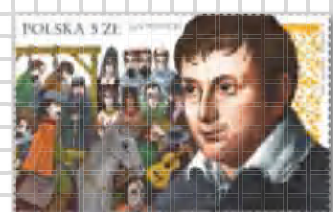
Printing: litho, Goznak. Perf 11.9 x 12.2.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 30 (5 x 6).

10.50r coat of arms (on shield) of Sergiev Posad in Moscow region, showing walls and gateway, golden dome of



084 POLAND
Definitive. Sunflower



083 POLAND
Count Jan Potocki



086 RUSSIA
Musical Instruments



089 RUSSIA
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10.50r x 20 coat of arms of Sergiev Posad

Note: the city, north-east of Moscow, was known as Zagorsk from 1930-91

095 June 26, 2014

Centenary of Barikady Machine Works, Volgograd

Design: A Povarikhin.

Printing: litho, Goznak.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 9 (3 x 3) with plain coloured borders.

15r Topol-M missile on 16-wheel transporter, and view of the armaments factory, c1914

096 June 27, 2014

Centenary of the Incorporation of Tuva into Russia

Design: R Komsa.

Printing: litho, Goznak.

Sheet stamp:

15r coat of arms/emblem of Tuva (sun and horseman)

097 June 27, 2014

Vladimir N Chelomey, 1914-1984

Design: A Povarikhin.

Printing: litho, Goznak.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 15 (3 x 5).

15r portrait of the Ukrainian mechanical scientist, aviation and missile engineer, and Proton rocket

Note: developed the first Soviet jet engine in 1942, inter-continental ballistic missiles in the 1960s and 1970s, and the Proton heavy-lift rocket used in the Soviet space programme from 1965

098 July 2, 2014

The Baikal-Amur Railway

Design: A Drobyshev.

Printing: litho, Goznak.

Miniature sheet: design composite with border.

40r Ermak locomotive hauling goods train

Note: construction of the line, in Siberia, commenced in 1974

099 July 7, 2014

State Awards of the Russian Federation. Hero of Labour Medal

Design: A Moskovets. Design has blue background.

Printing: litho and embossed, with varnish (lacquer) layer, Goznak.

Sheetlet (4 x 2): 7 stamps and 1 label (position 1).

25r Gold Star of Hero of Labour ribbon (in Russian colours) and medal

Note: the embossing and lacquer covers the medal and ribbon. The award was instituted on March 29, 2013

100 July 7, 2014

70th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War 1941-1945. Medals, first issue

Design: A Moskovets. All designs have scarlet background.

Printing: litho and embossed, with varnish (lacquer) layer, Goznak.

Sheetlet (4 x 2): 7 stamps and 1 label (position 1).

25r For The Defence of Leningrad: medal depicts monument and six soldiers, ribbon has single blue-green stripe

Sheetlet (4 x 2): 7 stamps and 1 label (position 1).

25r For the Defence of Sevastopol: medal depicts soldier and sailor, ribbon has single deep blue stripe

Sheetlet (4 x 2): 7 stamps and 1 label (position 1).

25r For the Defence of Stalingrad: medal depicts soldiers with flag, ribbon has single red stripe

Sheetlet (4 x 2): 7 stamps and 1 label (position 1).

25r For the Defence of Moscow: medal depicts buildings, soldier in wheelchair, aircraft and tank, ribbon has two scarlet stripes

101 July 7, 2014

135th anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Russia & Bulgaria

Design: H Bedretinova.

Printing: litho, Goznak.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 15 (3 x 5).

15r flags of Russia and Bulgaria

102 July 28, 2014

First anniversary of the Death of Hugo Chávez, President of Venezuela

Design: Olga N Ivanova.

Printing: litho, Goznak.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 25.

15r portrait of Hugo Rafael Chávez Frias, 1954-2013, in uniform, and Venezuelan flag

ST PIERRE & MIQUELON

(last listed in Sept 2015)

103 Jan 18, 2012

Definitives. Marianne de l'Europe

Design & Engraving: Yves Beaujard. All designs have 'SPM' overprinted in black on stamps of France.

Printing: recess, and overprinting, PhilaPoste, France. Non-denominated. Perf 13 x 13. Two phosphor bands on second, third and fourth designs.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 100.

- (55c) Marianne and stars, black (inscribed '20g Ecopli')

- (60c) Marianne and stars, scarlet (inscribed 'Lettre Prioritaire')

- (1.07€) Marianne and stars, bright violet (inscribed '20g Monde')

- (1.95€) Marianne and stars, bright purple (inscribed '100g Lettre Prioritaire')

104 Feb 4, 2012

Ships. Le Ravelin (1962)

Design: Vincent Lemoine (painting).

Printing: litho, PhilaPoste, France.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 25.

0.60€ fishing boat Le Ravelin at sea

105 Feb 8, 2012

Definitives. Marianne de l'Europe

Design & Engraving: Yves Beaujard. All designs have 'SPM' overprinted in black on stamps of France.

Printing: recess, and overprinting, PhilaPoste, France. Non-denominated. Two phosphor bands.

Perf 13 x 13.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 100.

- (1.07€) Marianne and stars, blue-violet (inscribed '20g Europe')

- (1.25€) Marianne and stars, pale brown-red (inscribed '50g Lettre Prioritaire')

- (3.55€) Marianne and stars, deep brown-lilac (inscribed '250g Lettre Prioritaire')

106 March 7, 2012

Churches

Design: Patrick Plantegenest.

Printing: litho, PhilaPoste.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 20.

0.87€ chapel of St Theresa of the Child Jesus, at Anse du Gouvernement, Langlade

107 March 21, 2012

Marine Invertebrates

Design: Denise Teletchea.

Printing: litho, PhilaPoste.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 20 arranged in horizontally se-tenant strips of 4.

0.60€ Acadian hermit crab, *Pagurus acadianus*

0.60€ lion's mane jellyfish, *Cyanea capillata*

0.60€ Arctic sea star, *Leptasterias polaris*

0.60€ dahlia sea anemone, *Urticina felina*

108 April 11, 2012

Definitives. Marianne de l'Europe (leaf type)

Design & Engraving: Yves Beaujard. All designs have 'SPM' overprinted in black on stamps of France.

Printing: recess, and overprinting, PhilaPoste, France. Non-denominated. Single phosphor band. Perf 13 x 13.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 100.

- (0.33€) Marianne and stars on leaf, emerald (inscribed '20g Lettre Verte')

- (0.47€) Marianne and stars on leaf, bright yellow-green (inscribed '50g Lettre Verte')

- (0.58€) Marianne and stars on leaf, deep turquoise-green (inscribed '100g Lettre Verte')

- (0.85€) Marianne and stars on leaf, black-green (inscribed '250g Lettre Verte')

109 May 16, 2012

St Pierre & Miquelon in the Past. Hard Labour

Design: monumental painting exhibited at the Exposition Universelle de Paris in 1900, by Gaston Rouillet, 1847-1925.

Miniature sheet: 6 separately spaced stamps, design composite with border.

0.60€ x 6 different panoramic view of fishing port, with workers drying cod by laying the fish out on free-draining gravel beds

Border: entire mural

110 June 28, 2012

25th anniversary of Musée Archipelitude

Design: Marc Derible.

Engraving: Claude Andreotto, Line Filhon, Marie-Noëlle Goffin and Eve Luquet.

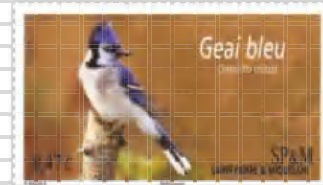
Printing: recess and litho, PhilaPoste.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 16.

0.60€ sketches of museum buildings L'École, L'Atelier, La Maison Jézéquel, Le Garage, La Maison Grise



088 RUSSIA
Clock Towers



118 ST PIERRE & MIQUELON
Blue Jay



103 ST PIERRE & MIQUELON
Definitives. Marianne de l'Europe



106 ST PIERRE & MIQUELON
Churches

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Note: the Museum, on Île-aux-Marins, comprises a collection of historic utilitarian buildings, moved from elsewhere, fitted out with original period artifacts and tools

111 July 11, 2012

André Paturel, 1942-1987

Design: Patrick Derible.

Engraving: Yves Beaujard.

Printing: recess, PhilaPoste.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 25.

0.33€ portrait of the sailor, and yacht

112 July 27, 2012

London 2012 Olympic Games

Design: Patrick Derible.

Engraving: Pierre Bara.

Printing: recess, PhilaPoste.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 10.

1.07€ women's boxing match

113 Sept 15, 2012

Drawings by Children

Design: portions of drawings by young artists Zélie Hutinet and Fabien Gaspard (competition winners), from Coulonges-sur-Autize in France and St Pierre & Miquelon.

Engraving: Elsa Catelin.

Printing: recess and litho, PhilaPoste.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 10.

1.15€ houses on coast, lighthouse, horse in orchard, swan and cygnets, man transporting cow in punt, puffins, *Fratercula arctica*

114 Sept 26, 2012

Local Expressions. Jouer au Pipette

Design: Christine Luberry (illustration).

Printing: litho, PhilaPoste.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 25.

0.60€ boy in fenced field holding stick (bat) and flying piece of wood sharpened at both ends ('pipette')

115 Oct 10, 2012

Marine Paintings

Printing: litho, PhilaPoste.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 10 (2 x 5) arranged in se-tenant pairs.

0.60€ *Le Béothuk* by Dirk Verdoom: fishing vessel in rough sea

0.60€ *Esprit de Barachois* by François Bellec: boats on beach slipways

116 Oct 24, 2012

Natural Heritage. Le Chapeau de Miquelon

Design: Michel Borotra (drawing).

Engraving: Louis Boursier.

Printing: recess, PhilaPoste.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 10 arranged in five triptychs of 2 stamps and 1 central label, forming composite design.

€2.50 seals on offshore rocks

€2.50 Le Chapeau de Miquelon: mountain near coastline of Miquelon, with its forest fringe, which resembles a hat

Label: seals on rocks

117 Nov 28, 2012

Christmas 2012

Design: tapestry by Abigail Calixte (winner of children's competition).

Printing: litho, PhilaPoste.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 25.

0.60€ Santa Claus entering a house, with reindeer and sleigh waiting outside

118 Jan 9, 2013

Birds. Blue Jay

Design: Patrick Hacala.

Printing: litho, PhilaPoste.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 25.

0.47€ blue jay, *Cyanocitta cristata*

SAMOA

(last listed in Nov 2015)

119 Dec 18, 2014

Christmas 2014 & New Year 2015

Design: Melissa Cato. All designs have backgrounds reading 'Merry Christmas' and 'Happy New Year' in Samoan and English.

Printing: litho, BDT.

Miniature sheet (2 x 2):

\$2.00 decorated Christmas tree, with Santa and reindeer

\$2.00 golden tree bauble with white star decoration

\$2.00 red and white stocking filled with presents

\$2.00 gift wrapped in red paper, tied with golden bow

120 Jan 5, 2015

Chinese Lunar New Year. Year of the Sheep

Design: Sophia Zhang. Both designs show decorative sheep in Chinese style.

Printing: litho, BDT. Stamps are diamond format.

Miniature sheet: free-form shape, die-cut in the shape of a sheep.

\$5.50 red sheep (autumn and winter) with peony and plum flowers on forehead

\$6.60 blue sheep (spring and summer) dressed with chrysanthemum and lotus motifs

Border: golden sheep and Chinese characters

VATICAN CITY

(last listed in Aug 2015)

121 May 19, 2015

Bicentenary of the Birth of John Bosco (Don Bosco), 1815-1888

Printing: litho, Cartor.

Sheetlet (3 x 2):

0.80€ portrait of the Italian educator and founder of the Salesian Congregation (Society of St Francis de Sales) and Salesian Sisters, and cheering youths

Border: picture of the basilica built on hill near Castelnuovo, where Bosco was born

122 May 19, 2015

Europa 2015. Old Toys

Design: Stefano Morri (illustrations).

Printing: litho, Printex, Malta.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 10 (5 x 2).

0.80€ scene in room, with three toy soldiers in uniform of the Papal Gendarmerie (as worn until 1965), one holding a flag with Vatican coat of arms; boy, teddy bear, toy train

0.95€ scene on terrace, with two toy pontifical Swiss Guards in uniform, one playing drum, the other with a halberd; glass marble, dice with their

faces showing Vatican coat of arms and initials of Swiss Guard (G-S-P), view of St Peter's Basilica

123 May 19, 2015

70th anniversaries of the End of World War II & Founding of the United Nations Organisation

Design: Marco Ventura.

Printing: litho, Cartor.

Miniature sheet (2 x 1):

2.00€ injured hand which has been bandaged making peace gesture, and war-damaged city (in dark colours)

2.00€ stylised hands holding up globe, United Nations building, and olive branch (against blue sky)

Border: strand of barbed wire (at left) and ribbons in colours of rainbow (at right)

Note: the United Nations building in New York City was not completed until 1952

124 May 19, 2015

Centenary of the International Telecommunication Union

Design: based upon Michelangelo's *Creation of Adam* on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

Printing: litho, Printex, Malta.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 10.

2.15€ computer monitor with digital image of two hands with forefingers almost touching, and background detail of actual Michelangelo work

125 Sept 2, 2015

8th World Meeting of Families, Philadelphia, September 22-27, 2015

Design: Chiara Principe.

Printing: litho, Printex, Malta.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 10.

2.30€ three families from different continents standing on top of a globe, Liberty Bell and buildings of Philadelphia, including churches

Note: the Meeting was not exclusively a Roman Catholic event

126 Sept 2, 2015

The Apostolic Journeys of Pope Francis I in 2014

Designs: photomontages. All designs include a depiction of Pope Francis.

Printing: litho, BDT.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 10.

0.95€ visit to Albania, September 21, 2014: Presidential Palace in Tirana (with equestrian statue)

0.95€ visit to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, November 25, 2014: the Louise Weiss building, co-seat of the Parliament

0.95€ visit to Turkey, November 28-30, 2014: the Blue Mosque in Istanbul

2.30€ visit to the Republic of Korea, August 13-18, 2014: Blue House of Seoul, official residence of the President of South Korea

Miniature sheet:

3.00€ visit to Israel, May 24-25, 2014: Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Old City of Jerusalem

Border: panoramic view of eastern walls of Old City, with Church of Dormition of the Virgin Mary, and portrait of Pope Francis



120 SAMOA
Chinese Lunar New Year



124 VATICAN CITY
International Telecommunication Union



123 VATICAN CITY
End of World War II & Founding of United Nations



112 SPORT

London 2012 Olympics,
St Pierre & Miquelon



033 GOATS

Goat Breeds, France



099 MEDALS & BADGES

Hero of Labour Medal, Russia

A HANDY CROSS-REFERENCE TO ACCOMPANY THIS MONTH'S NEW ISSUE GUIDE

The most popular collecting themes are listed in alphabetical order, with the reference numbers of all the relevant entries in this month's New Issue Guide, guiding you quickly to the new stamps which most interest you. Personalities are given a separate listing for your convenience. A single stamp issue will often be cross-referenced under more than one category.

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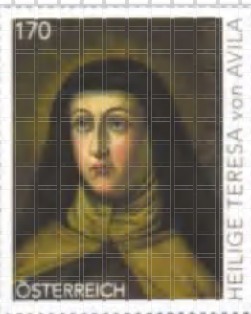
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102 HUGO CHÁVEZ
President of Venezuela



013 JOSEPH HARDTMUTH
Austrian inventor



020 TERESA OF AVILA
Spanish nun



057 ST JOHN BOSCO
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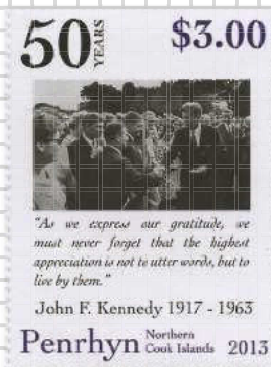
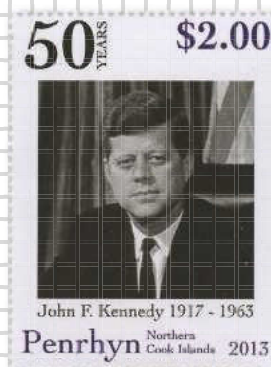
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010 TONI SAILER
Austrian ski racer



072 JOHN F KENNEDY
US President

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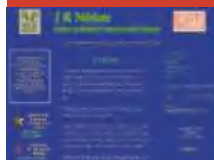
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Selling Your Stamps?

Summary Tip #21:

5 Different Ways to Sell your Stamps: Selling via Auction.

Dear Colleague,

In Part 3 (Volume 3) of 'Selling your Stamps' we discussed the importance of selecting the right dealers/organisations to approach and ensuring the choice of those with transparent *modus operandi*.

Here in Part 4 of 'Selling your Stamps' we'll discuss the potential advantages and disadvantages of selling through auction on your own account.

Remember we previously discussed the importance of knowing the strength of your collection. This is never more important than when making the decision to consign your stamps to auction. We have touched upon this in previous 'Stamp Tips of the Trade'. The most important thing to remember – is 'who buys complete stamp collections at auction?'

Collectors want to buy stamps that are missing from their collections: Dealers want to buy complete collections to break out individual stamps/sets to supply to collectors. By breaking collections into individual parts dealers add value/profit. When you consign your collection as one lot to auction – 9 times out of 10 it is a dealer that will be buying it. Unless you are a collector that purchases collections, extract the stamps you need, and sell on the rest – you will be looking to buy specific stamps, sets or small 'runs'.

So what is wrong with consigning stamps to auction? Nothing, if it is the right kind of stamps. For example – you need to 'quiz' the auctioneer selected as to what he/she is actually going to do with your stamps. Let's give you an example. A few weeks ago we purchased a 'Birds' thematic collection from public auction. We

paid the auctioneer exactly £1011.50= ... but the actual price the stamps were 'knocked down' to us was exactly £800=. The buyer's premium was 26.4375% – and that was before the increase in VAT. If we purchased the same collection today – the buyer's premium would be 27%!

Unless your collection includes valuable stamps/sets that the auctioneer agrees to extract and offer individually ... you are paying an enormous percentage of the value of your stamps for that auction to sell to dealers.

And did the collector realise £800=? NO. Even if the collector was charged just 12% + VAT selling commission – at today's rate the collector would receive £685=. Imagine, this collection has been sold to a dealer for £1011 – by an auction who has put no money on the table and yet made a gross profit of £326= on the transaction. The dealer that paid £1,011.50 expects to make a profit. It follows that if you can approach the right dealers in the right way – then you can expect to eliminate much of the money that you pay for that auction to offer your stamps to dealers. Please refer to 'Selling your Stamps' Tip 19 (Volume 2) for suggestions as to how this may be achieved for more valuable collections.

The 'funniest' thing of all was that the auction does not even pack your purchases we had to pay another \$35 for a company to collect the stamps, package them and deliver them to us by parcel delivery!

The point is that unless your collection includes valuable stamps/sets that the auctioneer agrees to extract and offer individually ... you are paying an enormous percentage of the value of your stamps for that auction to sell to dealers.

BUT, if your collection is one basically comprised of rarities – then an argument can be made for offering your collection individually lotted. In this way you are going to reach collectors + if yours is a 'named' collection often there is a 'kudos' value/premium that stamps with provenance achieve.

However – so large are the major auctions selling and buyer's premiums today – that even with collections of rarities – leading dealers can often offer to pay in excess of a fair auction estimate immediately – without risk, uncertainty of unsold lots, and immediately. The simple answer is get the auction to underwrite the minimum NET amount that they will guarantee you receive ... and then see by how much the 'trade' will improve upon this. Then you make a fully informed decision.

In Part 5 of 'Selling your Stamps' we'll discuss the merits and obstacles of selling your stamps on-line via eBay and other on-line auctions.

Happy collecting from us all,

Andrew

PS. If you find this 'tip' interesting please forward it to a philatelic friend.

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Sincerest form of flattery

The United States' Special Delivery service was the envy of other countries by the 1920s, and much imitated. Even down to the design of its stamps...

■ Report by John Winchester

The perception that life moves at a faster pace in the United States is upheld by a study of the country's Special Delivery stamps.

The first of the breed, issued in 1885, depicting a running messenger boy clutching a letter. On an upgraded design of 1902, his enthusiasm was augmented by extra speed, as he was provided with a bicycle, which he was depicted cycling with gusto.

When Irving Glover was appointed Postmaster by incoming President Warren Harding in 1920, however, his determination to reflect the growing modernity of the postal service made him no enthusiast for pedal power, and the Bureau of Engraving & Printing was charged with creating a more up-to-date image.

The postman duly took possession of a powerful motorcycle, possibly an Indian or Harley-Davidson, which he



ABOVE: USA 1922 Special Delivery 10c



ABOVE: Dominican Republic 1927 Express Delivery 10c

parked outside his customer's elegant house before knocking at the door. Issued in July 1922, the design suggested the perfect balance between speed and efficiency on one hand, and customer satisfaction on the other.

Apparently, this was the envy of other countries, because when the Dominican Republic issued its own Special Delivery and Express Delivery stamps in 1925-27 it copied the design almost precisely.

Comparing the two stamps alongside each other has all the hallmarks of a spot-the-difference competition: not only are the postman and customer familiar, but also the bike, the doorway, the windows, even the shrubbery!

Doubtless this riased heckles in the US Post Office Department, but its riposte was dignified one-upmanship. It quickly issued a new design upgrading the motorbike to a van. ■

NEXT MONTH

Anglo-French



Which were the 10 greatest stamp designs of the anglicised French artist Edmund Dulac?

PLUS

■ Thematic guide to dragons and serpents

■ The minimalist first issue of Labuan

■ British stamps hailing the great explorersw

■ Whatever happened to Nagorno-Karabakh?

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COLLECTORS ARE RIGHT TO BE WARY OF LOFTY CLAIMS BUT THERE MAY BE GOOD REASONS WHY YOU MAY FIND SOME OF THEM TO BE TRUE

The stamp market constantly fluctuates so that at any given moment **if there is too much of what you wish to sell on the market**, despite what anybody claims, no dealer can offer you **massively** more.

However, there may be good reasons why some stamp organisations can offer you significantly more and pay you immediately rather than waiting months for the unknown of what you may or may not sell at auction – and you will be waiting even longer for payment.

It all depends upon that stamp dealer's/auction's business model. UPA buys and sells globally but if for example the nearest stamp dealer you approach only sells British stamps to a small market place then there is a strong possibility that he/she may be fully stocked already – so that if a price is proffered to you there is an increased likelihood of your receiving a lower offer as your collection, or part of your collection may be 'traded on' to a larger dealer. Worse still, other unrelated areas of your collection may be neglected or not valued in any offer you receive.

If you consign your collection to auction and it is unsuitable or too time-consuming for that auction to 'break' it into smaller lots – then there is a very strong probability that you will be paying an auction to sell your stamps to a stamp dealer WHO could afford to pay you up to 36% more than you will receive. Don't forget most auctions charge the buyer of your collection up to twice the commission, or more, that they charge you.

It doesn't make sense for you to pay an auction to sell your stamps to a stamp dealer, when – if you handle the transaction wisely – you can receive the up to 36% more for yourself.

What happens when you ask UPA to make you an offer?

First we ask you to tell us about your collection **and we listen**. Then we ask you how much you know about the market for your type of collection? At this stage we add to your knowledge, informing you of current conditions you may be unaware of. Then we discuss whether we may be well placed to assist you and how that may be achieved.

Providing your collection has sufficient potential we may offer to visit without charge or obligation, or we will offer to uplift your collection from your home at our expense, insured in transit (and whilst in our care) free of charge. If you are situated in mainland UK and your collection is too bulky for you to pack, provided your collection is valuable enough, we may even provide a free packing service in addition to shipping to our office.

Now we assess your collection and offer you the choice of agreeing a price that will be paid immediately – or of our bidding against other dealers so that you know you are achieving the best possible price.

that if an item has been previously unsold we **actually tell you**. Furthermore each time an item is unsold we reduce the price and we **keep on reducing the price – until finally the lot sells** or it is given away. In practice good material sells quickly whilst other material finally finds its own price and sells. This is the reason why there are always 1,000's of new offers at UPA and part of the reason why we are usually in a position to pay you more and pay you immediately.

Furthermore, unlike some, UPA has not one but **4 different selling systems** selling 95% of stamps to collectors, so that when a collection is purchased the most valuable/

interesting stamps go into our Universal Philatelic Auctions (a NEW UPA UK record 2,031 different bidders in the last auction). Intermediate/lower-priced sets/singles enter our Omniphil and Avon Approvals systems (established 56 years and over 1,250 regular collector clients), inexpensive stamps enter the Avon Mixtures system and eBay (universalphilatelic) for surplus material. All of which is why UPA can purchase and pay for almost literally anything.....

WHAT DOES UPA BUY?

UPA literally purchases almost any country collection worth £250 upwards from sets and singles to classics and entire British, British Empire, Europe and World collections. At the moment UPA has **exceptional demand for original collections and GB & British Empire** in particular.

UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL:

Dear Folks at UPA,

I've dealt with the public for 37+ years, and as both a consumer, and a businessman. I have created huge numbers of orders from all over the world from a complete range of suppliers from all aspects of our daily lives.

But I don't believe I have ever encountered such sensitivity, such kind thought, such understanding as I have with you in our initial meeting, our subsequent successful transaction and now this.

I recall well the item you highlight, and realise that this one item has such colossal personal value. I could never part with it.

It has been an absolute pleasure dealing with yourself, and I am more than willing for you to use this e-mail as commendation to others who may be thinking of disposing of their collection.

Many, many thanks for a memorable experience, and I will try to emulate your thought and care in my own business sphere.

Yours sincerely

D. E. B. Bath, UK



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Guarantee: We guarantee that you will never be under pressure at any stage of the process; you will always be in control. E-mail or Contact UPA now: 01451 861 111

Why can UPA often pay considerably more?

We often buy at auction. That auction takes the **"up to 36% more"** that we pay that YOU DO NOT RECEIVE.

However – there is another equally important reason namely **The UPA Business Model**. Unlike most dealers we believe that if an item is not selling, then it must be too expensive. This is the reason why when you receive our quarterly catalogues of up to 20,671 different lots (you can request a sample one free) ... you will find

What do I do next?

You contact UPA and talk to one of our friendly Team who will help to inform you so that you can decide how to progress matters there is no charge and no obligation **please CONTACT UPA NOW**.

Remember, if you are selling a collection collectors buy the stamps they are missing; this is why dealers exist. Most intact collections offered at auction sell to dealers. **Save commissions and uncertainty by contacting UPA today.** We guarantee that you will never be under pressure at any stage of the process, you will always be in control. **CONTACT our friendly UPA Team NOW: 01451 861 111**

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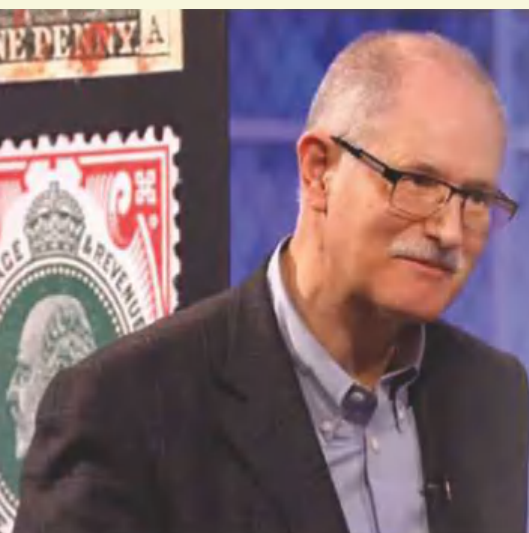


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Andrew with Alan on the ITV Alan Titchmarsh Show Promoting Philately

I bumped into an astute collector at Swinpex this year. Unlike other companies I never take any stamps to sell – so all you'll see is an empty table and me with time to spare talking with collectors like you ... (fortunately a few of you recognise me by now!)

"I'm enjoying watching the fight you're taking against the Buyer's Premium" he said, **"and in particular the reaction from other auctions"** ... and that was it – he didn't need to say any more, and he didn't

Pernicious Buyer's Premiums at other auctions can cost you up to 25% more than the cost of the stamps, in one case inclusive of VAT we paid 27% extra to take delivery of our stamps – yet if you have a valuable collection and 'talk nicely' to most of the big players they'll cut you a deal so thin on their seller's commission that you'll wonder why they have to take all their costs in charging you, the buyer for what you win ...

I've never met a collector yet that doesn't **loathe** 'buyer's premiums'

Personally I can't understand why things have to be done this way and it seems that other auctions are starting to feel the same. Some major philatelic auctions offer No Buyer's Premium – not just my company U P A, and others make attempts to hold their buyers' premiums down. **But fortunately there's a solution**, I urge you to seek stamp auctions defying pernicious buyer's premiums and deploy your secret weapon – your **'custom'** with them

Therefore, if you are new to U P A I'd like to invite you to test my next 28,350 lot £2,083,177 auction closing on the 12th January and in return I'll give you your 1st GBP£55 auction winnings absolutely FREE ... so that you can see why 1,943 different collectors and some dealers bid in our last auction, 90% successful with absolutely **NO BUYER'S PREMIUM**

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